

■ ENTERTAINMENT/A2-2

PDI gets exclusive 35-min. peek at this year's most-talked-about movie

■ ACROSS/A21

Guinsaugon becoming top tourist destination in Southern Leyte

■ BUSINESS/B2-4

Credit card firm introduces concierge services and other perks to pamper rich

■ NEWS/A2

Senate presidency up in the air

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, May 12, 2006

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website: www.lnq7.net

'TIS/A11

3 out of 5 youths think they're immune to AIDS

By Tina Arceo-Dumla

AS MANY AS THREE OUT OF EVERY FIVE YOUNG persons (aged 14 to 20) believe they are immune from HIV/AIDS, and one in five thinks that the virus can be contracted by kissing, drinking contaminated water, or being bitten by a mosquito.

These were some of the "disturbing" findings in a survey conducted recently by the Department of Health, prompting the agency to scramble for

3 OUT OF 5/A23

3 OUT OF 5/A23

3 OUT OF 5/A23

Bayan Muna members killed in 5 years hit 91

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ECHAGUE, ISABELA—Two Bayan Muna members in Cagayan Valley were shot and killed by unidentified men here on Wednesday night in an attack that the activists' colleagues said was part of military attempts to muzzle antigovernment groups.

The military denied involvement in the killings.

Elena Mendiola, 54, Bayan Muna-Cagayan Valley secretary general, and her live-in partner, Ricardo Balauag, 51, had just bought mangoes in Barangay Garit Sur and were about to leave the village at 9:30 p.m. when two men fired at them with an M-14 rifle and a .45-cal. pistol.

Mendiola was hit six times in the head, while Balauag was hit in the head and body.

It was the second assassination attempt on Mendiola in less than 24 hours.

Unidentified men earlier fired at her in front of her house in Barangay Silauan Sur, but she was unscathed.

The victims were the 90th and 91st members of the militant party-list group killed since April 2001, according to Robert de Castro, Bayan Muna national deputy secretary general.

The two were also the 12th and 13th victims of political killings under the Arroyo administration, he said.

"We condemn the cowardly act perpetrated by agents of the state. Only the military has reason to silence the voices of truth and change," Castro said.

Catholic Bishop Sergio Utleg of Isabelia condemned the murder and described the killers as "evil and narrow-minded armed government forces."

Reginald Ugaddan, Bayan-Cagayan Valley spokesperson, said some witnesses were willing to testify on the killing but were afraid to do so because of lack of protection for them.

2 MORE/A23



IT'S MORNING IN MANILA. Eight nuns on board a ferry in Manila greet a new day with prayers of thanksgiving and for a safe passage to Culion, Palawan, to join the town's centennial festivities starting April 29. The religious have played a major role in caring for the sick in the country's first leper colony. Through the tireless efforts of its former residents, Culion is now a municipality.

MARICAR ABIS/EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO PDI PRESIDENT

CBCP: Make public Mayuga, fertilizer scam reports

By Leila B. Salaverria

AS PHILIPPINE BISHOPS YES-TERDAY lauded the Supreme Court's landmark decisions on President Macapagal-Arroyo's apparent drift toward authoritarian rule, they also urged her to come clean on the alleged fer-

tilizer scam and the controversial "Mayuga report."

Not letting up on issues hounding the administration, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines said the investigation by Rear Admiral Mateo Mayuga into the military's role in the alleged manipulating of the 2004 election

should be made public.

CBCP officials, at a news conference celebrating 2006 as the "Year of Social Concerns," also said the alleged misuse by the Department of Agriculture of the P700-million fertilizer fund should be litigated in the proper forum.

Archbishop Angel Lagdameo,

the CBCP president, read from a Pastoral Exhortation that said there was a need to restore trust in political institutions "perceived by many to be corrupt."

Lagdameo commended the Supreme Court for its decisions striking down portions of con-

CBCP/A10

Gov't agency printing tons of Cha-cha literature

By TJ Burgoño

THE NATIONAL PRINTING OFFICE has been printing primers on Charter change by the hundreds of thousands at Malacañang's request, raising questions about the possible misuse of government funds.

An insider showed the INQUIRER samples of the material, titled "Primer on Charter change," including one bearing the name of the Philippine Information Agency on the front and back covers, and indicating that this was published by the agency.

The later copies did not contain the same information, apparently owing to the controversy

GOVT/A23

FROM SAUDI WITH LOVE: Some of the 170 overseas Filipino workers pardoned by Saudi King Abdullah arrive at Villamor Air Base.



GMA trip to Saudi called major coup

By Nikko Dizon

MANY WERE VISIBLY EXCITED. Others were simply relieved. Not a few shed tears. But nearly all were undeniably happy to be home.

A total of 170 overseas Filipino workers arrived in Manila late yesterday from Jeddah. They were among the estimated 300 OFWs languishing in Saudi jails for various offenses who were pardoned by King Abdullah during the recent four-day state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The group arrived at 4:55 p.m. at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) via Saudi Airlines flight SV 862 under an arrangement personally ordered by the king.

An hour and a half later, they were ferried in three huge airport

Doubts raised over population drop report

By Philip C. Tubeza and Michelle V. Remo

A LAWMAKER YESTERDAY SAID the report that the Philippines' annual population growth rate slowed down to 1.95 percent last year was "highly unbelievable."

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, a vice chair of the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development Foundation Inc., said yesterday's headline story in the INQUIRER was "misleading" because it was based on "a mere projection."

"How can you say it is factual?" said Remulla, a leading proponent of House Bill No. 3773, or the Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act.

Remulla said the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) had only issued a projection, based on the 2000 census, that population growth could slow to 1.95 percent between 2005 and 2010.

He said there was no census taken last year because the National Statistics Office lacked the

DOUBTS/A22



SUMMER'S END: With the expected coming of a tropical depression, the end may be in sight for beach revelers and other sizzlers, including these Russian tourists lazing on the sands of Puka Beach in Boracay, Aklan.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

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FORECAST: Bicol region and Eastern Visayas will experience stormy weather. The rest of Visayas and Southern Luzon will have rains and gusty winds and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough. The rest of the country will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/05/11/06

SOURCE: PAGASA

Second FRONT PAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Rains
Laog	Cloudy with Rains	Clark Zone	Stormy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Stormy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
		Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
		Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Senate presidency up in the air

By TJ Burongio

SENATE MINORITY LEADER Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday he doubted anybody in the chamber could muster the required votes to topple Senate President Franklin Drilon from his post, and Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan and Sen. Richard Gordon said they shared this view.

Notwithstanding the term-sharing agreement between Drilon and Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., the issue of who will lead the Senate would boil down to who has command of the magic number, the 13 votes needed to elect a new Senate president, according to Pimentel.

"No party or group in the Senate has the votes to elect a new Senate president," Pimentel said in a statement issued from Kenya where he, Drilon and Sen. Panfilo Lacson are attending an Inter-Parliamentary Union conference.

"Drilon has maybe 5 senators; Villar, 4; opposition 7; and unidentified flying objects, 7. The Senate presidency is anybody's ball game," he added.

Thus, if nobody could muster the minimum votes to wrest control of the Senate leadership in the 23-member chamber, the status quo would prevail, Pimentel said.

The opposition is not keen on rocking the leadership since Drilon, who had broken away from President Macapagal-Arroyo, has led inquiries into alleged administration anomalies.



DRILON



VILLAR

lies and set the tone for the chamber's critical stance vis-a-vis the administration.

"I have no reason to believe Senate President Franklin Drilon is in danger of losing his post when we resume sessions on the 15th of May," Pangilinan said in a separate statement.

Gordon said that while the term-sharing agreement between Drilon and Villar can be challenged by anyone, he could not say if any senator has the numbers "right now."

"I suppose it will be up to Frank (whether to yield the Senate presidency now)," Gordon added.

At the opening of the 13th Congress in July 2004, Drilon and Villar agreed to split the three-year term, with Drilon serving as Senate president during the first and second regular sessions and Villar taking over after that.

Drilon maintains he would honor the pact with Villar, but Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Manuel "Mar" Roxas II and Gordon stated recently that they were not bound by that agreement.

Any proposed change in the Senate leadership, especially when 13th Congress' third regular session opens

in July, will have to be voted on by members of the Senate.

Villar, chair of the committee on finance, sidestepped anew the leadership issue and instead issued a statement vowing to speed up the passage of the P1.053-trillion national budget when Congress resumes sessions next week.

"We are almost half-way through May and yet the budget for this year is still not approved. In two months or so, the national budget for 2007 would already be presented. So it would really be ridiculous if by then, the 2006 budget is still up in the air," he said.

After months of delay, the House approved a P1.04-trillion budget on April 4, the eve of Congress' Lenten break. Since then, congressmen and Malacañang have been pressing the Senate to pass the measure.

Villar said senators, who had held hearings on the budget since last November, should not be blamed for the delay.

"When the budget was handed to us, there was no opportunity to convene a bicameral conference anymore because the recess had begun."

With Juliet Labog-Javellana

'It's check and balance, not obsession to oust'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SENATORS YESTERDAY DEFENDED THEIR chamber from a House leader's allegation that the solons were only obsessed with ousting President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Dropping any parliamentary courtesy, House Majority Floor Leader Prospero Nograles had called the Senate a "national fault-finding" body, after the senators announced they were resuming their investigation of the "Hello Garci" wiretap and other administration anomalies when Congress resumed sessions on Monday.

Echoing Malacañang, Nograles had said the Senate investigations were nothing but attempts to undermine Ms Arroyo's leadership.

Yesterday, some senators hit back.

"There's an ocean of difference between acting as a check and balance on the executive department and wanting to oust GMA," said Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan.

Pangilinan said the Senate would concentrate on passing the much-delayed P1-trillion 2006 national budget.

But Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. insisted: "It's part of the Senate's job to seek an end to the corrupt administration."

"That is why Gloria should resign now so that we can have snap elections," said Pimentel, a staunch Arroyo critic who has been calling on her to resign amid allegations she cheated in the May 2004 elections.

Sen. Richard Gordon said that instead of meddling in the Senate's affairs, Nograles should be grateful to its members for working to get some restrictions of Executive Order No. 464 lifted.

Senators were among those who questioned the constitutionality of EO 464 be-

fore the Supreme Court, which subsequently nullified portions of the order that had barred administration and security officials from appearing at congressional hearings without the President's approval.

"We (senators) are obsessed with protecting the rights of the people. Obviously, Nograles is only interested in protecting the President," said Gordon.

Gordon said he understood Nograles' predicament where he needed to court the President's support for projects in his district to keep him in power.

He said Nograles apparently was unaware that the Senate worked on important bills even during the Holy Week break.

He cited the hearings conducted by the ways and means committee, chaired by Sen. Ralph Recto, and the committee on constitutional amendments, which he chairs.

Recto's committee held a hearing on the reduction of the income tax, the rationalization of fiscal incentives and measures to curb smuggling.

Although these were Malacañang-endorsed measures, two Cabinet secretaries and a bureau head snubbed the hearing.

Sen. Manuel Villar, finance committee chair, said the Senate will concentrate on getting the 2006 national budget passed after the House of Representatives took eight months to approve and transmit it to the upper chamber.

"As far as the Senate is concerned, we have not been remiss in our duty to hasten the approval of the budget," Villar said.

He said the Senate committee of the whole had conducted parallel marathon hearings alongside the House hearings since the third quarter of last year.

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Senator threatens 'zero budget' for PCGG

By TJ Burgonio

SEN. JUAN PONCE Enrile yesterday recommended a P1 budget for the Presidential Commission on Good Government after its chair, Camilo Sabio, and two commissioners skipped the Senate inquiry into the dissipation of assets of the Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC).

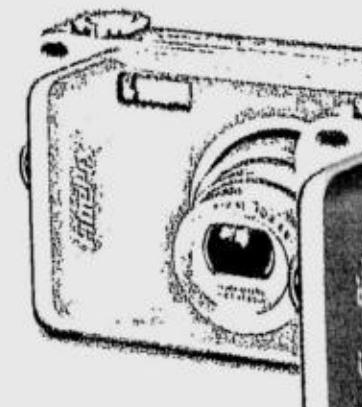
Sabio and Commissioners William Dichoso and Ricardo Abcede invoked Sec. 4-B of Executive Order No. 1, which created PCGG, to avoid the first hearing by the committee on government corporations and enterprises which saw a face-off of the opposing factions of the PHC shareholders.

The provision states that no staff of the commission shall be required to testify or produce evidence concerning matters "within its official cognizance."

"I would like to state for the record, I'm going to move for a zero budget of the PCGG," Enrile declared at the start of the hearing.

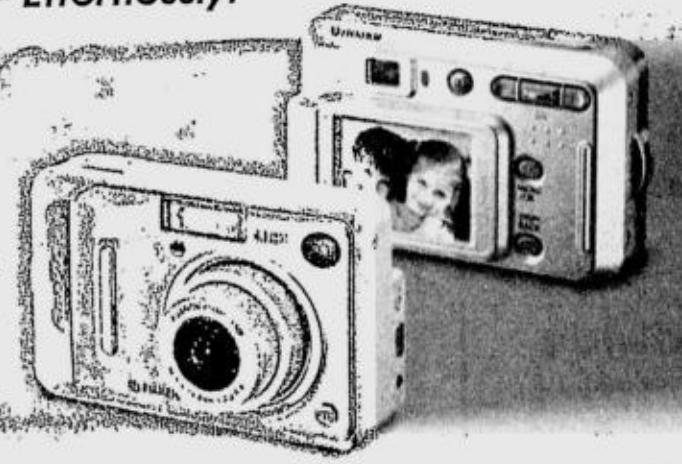
He is one of the founding shareholders of the mother firm, Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat).

The senator had earlier recommended a similar allocation for the commission after Sabio refused to answer senators' questions on the coco levy funds during the committee of the whole budget hearings in January.

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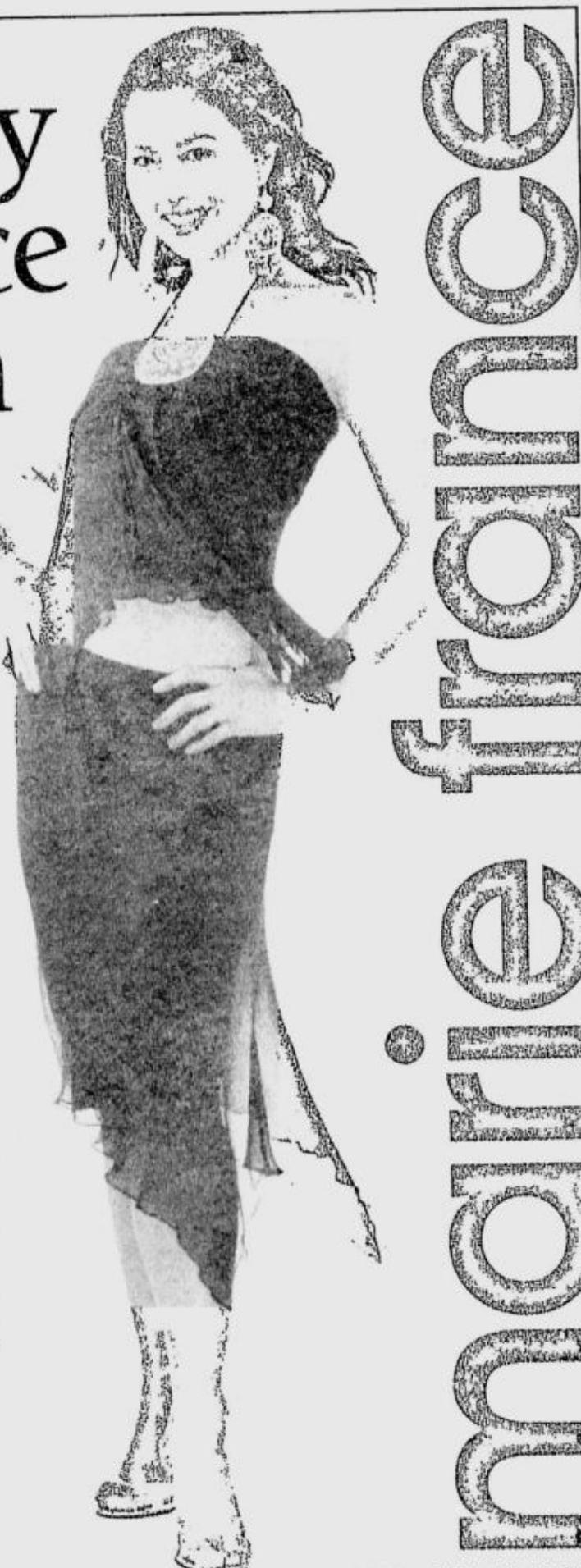
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Corrections

IN THE MAY 10 ISSUE, one of the front-page windows misstated that the country's farm output is expected to grow by 5 percent in the first quarter of the year. The 5-percent growth projected by the Department of Agriculture is for the first half of the year. The accompanying Business story on Page B6 also had an erroneous drophead. It should have read: "Agricultural production—not reduction—up 3.9% in Q1, helped by big corn, rice harvests, DA says."

IN THE MAY 10 ISSUE, a story on the Second Front Page—"Palace names 4 new justices to appeals court"—misspelled the name of one of the appointees to the Court of Appeals. The correct name of the new associate justice is Sixto—not Sixth—Marella Jr.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Maredo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw-Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

Erap dares GMA, Chavit to rat on each other

By Nelson F. Flores

FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA yesterday dared President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson to tell on each other so the people may know the truth.

Estrada made the taunt in a statement issued from his villa in Tanay, Rizal. Singson threatened to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo in the event her government enters into a deal with Estrada and the toppled leader is accused of plunder charges.

"Perhaps Governor Singson has personal knowledge of large-scale anomalies involving Mrs. Arroyo and that's why he is threatening to leave her side in the event I am acquitted by the antigraft court," the 69-year old Estrada said.

He said Singson "should make good on his wish to be remembered as a man who told the truth

by revealing all he knows on these anomalies, including the alleged jueteng links of both First Gentleman Jose Miguel 'Mike' Arroyo and eldest son Rep. Juan Miguel 'Mikey' Arroyo."

On the other hand, Estrada said if Ms Arroyo has nothing to hide, she should file the appropriate charges against Singson as recommended by the National Bureau of Investigation for his accumulated cash advances on the tobacco excise tax incurred from the administration of former President Fidel V. Ramos up to her own.

Singson said over dinner at the INQUIRER office on Monday that he would go against Ms Arroyo if Estrada were acquitted by the Sandiganbayan of the P4-billion plunder charge leveled against him following his ouster in 2001.

"The case is so strong. The only way he can be acquitted is if there's a deal," the 64-year-old Singson said.

He said he would also oppose Ms Arroyo if her administration obtained Estrada's re-

lease on recognizance as proposed by Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor. Estrada remains under house arrest at his villa in Tanay pending completion of his trial.

The former chief executive said he would never enter into any deals with Malacañang just to obtain his liberty.

"My innocence and integrity are non-negotiable. I will see this trial through and continue to pray that justice is done," he added.

Estrada said Singson was simply running true to form as an alleged blackmailer when he threatened to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo.

"I have personally experienced the vindictiveness of Singson and am now detained as a result of my refusal to give in to his blackmail. But despite five years in detention, I would not have it any other way ... I would still refuse to give in to his demands despite the fate that awaits me," Estrada said.

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interpreter : Isha Abubata

SABAY TAYONG MAGPAALAKI NG MAGANDA - SAYON
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'HEIGHT OF HYPOCRISY'

GMA House allies slam 'kangaroo court' verdict

By Philip C. Tuba

CONGRESSIONAL ALLIES OF PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday denounced as the "height of hypocrisy" the "guilty" verdict against the President handed down by the so-called people's court set up by her political and civil society opponents.

The Citizens' Congress for Truth and Accountability (CCTA) was a "kangaroo court" and its proceedings "an obvious politically partisan endeavor" that usurped the powers of the Presidential Electoral Tribunal to investigate allegations of fraud in the 2004 elections, said Representatives Monico Puentevella and Exequiel Javier of the ruling Lakas-CMD.

They said the CCTA, which had set up a 15-person tribunal to "try" the President, had also usurped Congress' authority to declare a President guilty of culpable violation of the Constitution and to have her impeached.

"None of the CCTA's findings will stand in court and Congress because in the first place the so-called people's court has no legal authority to prosecute anyone," Puentevella said in a statement.

Anti-GMA partisans

"As everyone knows, the CCTA is a partisan group of anti-Arroyo personalities who are bent on ousting the President," the Bacolod congressman added.

After a month-long "investigation and trial," the CCTA on Wednesday released its verdict finding the President "guilty" of electoral fraud, human rights violations and graft and corruption.

Puentevella said it was "absurd and pathetic" that a group of "strange bedfellows assumed a semblance of legitimacy by invoking the name of the people who never gave them the mandate to try the President on baseless charges of poll fraud, corruption and rights abuse."

Javier said the CCTA members were being presumptuous because the group as well as their "mock trial" had no legal authority.

Bogus court

"The trial was make-believe because they are a bogus court. They know they cannot win in a real court or in an impeachment proceeding so they resorted to a pseudo court to console themselves," he said.

Aside from lacking legal authority, the CCTA also had no "credibility because those who compose the group are recycled and overused anti-Arroyo personalities," he said.

"The CCTA is led by former Vice President [Teofisto] Guingona whose political principles seem to go with whichever is politically popular and beneficial for his name. His 'I accuse' speech ignited the hell for Erap [deposed President Estrada], but now he's rubbing elbows with the Estradas," he said.

Javier said the public was "very much aware" of Guingona's flip-flops, including his resignation from his ambassadorial post.

"The Arroyo administration gave him a position but he jumped out of the ship before anyone else when things got too hot for him. He should learn how to fade away gracefully," the congressman from Antique said.

RP to benefit from Australia's antiterror aid

THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE A "KEY RECIPIENT" of Australia's recently approved counterterrorism package for Asia in the next four years, the Australian Embassy announced yesterday.

Worth 92.6 million Australian dollars (US\$71.6 million), the package is designed to boost the capacity of recipient countries, including the Philippines, to combat the continuing and evolving threat of terrorism, the mission said in a statement.

The embassy did not indicate amounts specific to the Philippines, but said the package would build on existing cooperation agreements and translate into the following:

- Increased training in basic investigation, specialist law enforcement, forensics, and technical training by the Australian Federal Police.
- Greater information-sharing and exchange of border-control expertise. This includes support for the Regional Movement Alert List system initiative endorsed by Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) leaders in 2005 to promote "mutual access" to passport database systems.
- Collaborative efforts to strengthen regional controls on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials.
- Activities that promote tolerance and counteract terrorist propaganda.

The embassy's Chargé d'Affaires, Pablo Kang, said these measures would be explored further with the Philippine government during bilateral counterterrorism consultations next month.

"These measures are a further manifestation of Australia's long-term commitment to peace and development in the Philippines," the mission said.

On Tuesday, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz told reporters in Kuala Lumpur that the two countries are close to signing a security pact allowing Australian troops to be stationed in the Philippines, albeit temporarily.

Such an accord would allow Australian servicemen to participate in military exercises with troops from the United States, with whom the Philippines has military agreements.

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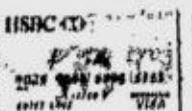
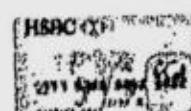
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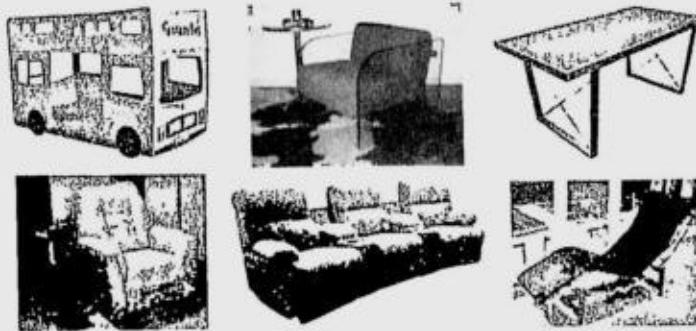
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FREE ENTRANCE

Mark Jimenez registers in new district, sparks talk of comeback

By Tina G. Santos

IS MILLIONAIRE, EX-COVT MARK Jimenez, who once warmed a seat in Congress, thinking of making a comeback? Jimenez yesterday went to the Commission on Elections (Comelec) office in Manila to file an application for transfer of residence from the city's sixth to its fifth district, according to election officer Raymond Teafio.

"He said he wanted to vote in the place where he was born," Teafio said, when asked if Jimenez disclosed any intention to run again for public office.

Teafio added that Jimenez's application for transfer would have to go through a process, including approval by the election registration board.

Sources believe that the move of the 59-year-old former representative of Manila's sixth district was a clear indication that he planned to run in the next elections.

Jimenez lost his seat on a question of residency. The House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal unseated Jimenez in May 2003, acting favorably on a complaint filed by a losing candidate, Bienvenido Abante, and Rosenda Ann Ocampo, the daughter of Pablo Ocampo, former congressman of the city. The two questioned Jimenez's claim of residency in Manila as he lived in Forbes Park.

In November 2003, Jimenez was convicted by a United States court on tax evasion and election fraud charges.

The Southern District Court of Miami sentenced Jimenez to 27 months in prison after he pleaded guilty to election conspiracy and tax evasion charges. He was also ordered to pay \$1.2 million in fines.

Jimenez started serving his sentence on Jan. 5, 2004 as approved by the Miami court which considered his birthday on Dec. 31 and the Christmas holidays.

He was "voluntarily" extradited to the United States on Dec. 26, 2002, after a long legal struggle that involved petitions before the Supreme Court.

With PDI research

Ermita draws flak for Da Vinci movie remark

By Philip C. Tubeza

IF YOU OPEN YOUR mouth on an issue regarding religion, especially one that's sensitive, you'd better expect a quick counterpunch.

This is exactly what Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita got after saying that the movie, "The Da Vinci Code," was blasphemous and that it ought to be banned—an opposition lawmaker quickly advised him to just shut up.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico said yesterday that Ermita's statement put the Movie Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) in a "very awkward position."

"It may serve the country well if the Executive Secretary, whose every utterance can be interpreted as state policy since he is the first alter ego of the President, to keep himself to civil matters, leaving the divine to the religious," Suplico said.

"We wish to remind the Palace that every public servant took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution, including the provision saying that 'the separation of Church and the State shall be inviolable,'" he said.

Suplico said the provision meant that the government was proscribed from commenting on religious policies.

Ermita on Wednesday said that Malacanang would not lift a finger to stop the showing of the "The Da Vinci Code," but if he had his way the movie would not be played in Philippine theaters because it was "blasphemous."

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2 more leftists shot dead in ambush

From page A1

He said the nonprosecution of perpetrators had created "a culture of impunity and violence."

Officials of the Army's 5th Infantry Division based in Jones town denied any involvement in the killings.

"It is just convenient for them [activists] to blame the military. It is unfair. They must have to verify first before accusing us," Col. Hilario Atendido, 502nd Infantry Brigade commander, said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

The military considers Bayan Muna and other leftist groups fronts for the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA).

The CPP-NPA has been waging a Maoist rebellion since 1969, making it Asia's longest running communist insurgency.

In February, Ms Arroyo invoked emergency powers to quash what she claimed was a coup plot by the communists and disgruntled military officers.

Defender of farmers' rights

Mendiola led several Bayan Muna protests against the Arroyo administration in Cagayan Valley. She actively supported the campaign to increase the buying price of rice and corn produced by farmers.

Ugaddan described Mendiola, a member of the People's Alliance for Democracy, Justice and Good Governance, as a "popular defender of farmers' rights" in Isabela.

"Any further investigation must work to establish who is responsible for this killing and bring the perpetrators to justice. The government must take a proactive role to ensure the citizens are protected," Utleg said.

Killing, disappearance

Earlier, Jeremias Tinambakan, a member of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, was killed in Misamis Occidental on May 9, according to the human rights group Karapatan. His wife, Rev. Marilou Tinambakan, was wounded.

The group also reported the disappearance early this week of Philip Limjoco, a suspected New People's Army rebel and listed as one of those to be arrested during the state of national emergency declared by Ms Arroyo in February. His family has said Limjoco is not involved in the leftist movement in the country.

The attacks came in the wake of the Citizens' Congress for Truth Accountability's finding that Ms Arroyo had committed serious human rights violations because of the extrajudicial killings.

Karapatan has listed more than 560 deaths of leftwing activists since 2001.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan yesterday said it was holding the Arroyo administration directly responsible for the latest killings. It said the defense establishment, the military and police hierarchies, as well as the Cabinet security cluster had done nothing to stop the rampage.

Tragic irony

"It is a tragic irony that these killings happened on the same day the Philippines got a seat in the United Nations Human Rights Council. How can a country aspire for a seat in the council when its own human rights record is utterly shameful and tarnished? It is a grim reminder and a slap on the face of the Philippine government," said Renato M. Reyes Jr., Bayan secretary general.

"How can Ms Arroyo save Filipino lives in Saudi Arabia and not save the lives of activists in her own country?" he added, referring to the President's visit to the Middle East and her plea in behalf of imprisoned Filipinos there.

Karapatan urged the President to order an investigation into the killings of activists and to condemn the extrajudicial executions in the same manner she condemned the killings of journalists and ordered their probe.

Systematic

"We are outraged that disappearances and extrajudicial killings committed by state agents exacerbate and are continuously tolerated by the Arroyo administration. In the minds of survivors, families of victims and human rights organizations, this is a systematic effort to annihilate people who hold a different opinions on the country's situation and how it could be changed," said Karapatan information officer Ruth Cervantes.

No pattern—PNP

Despite the wave of attacks on leftist activists, police authorities have refused to see a "pattern" to the murders.

They also insisted there was "no factual basis to blame the killings on the security units of the government."

"(Investigations) by the Philippine National Police showed no strong indicators that would establish that theory," said police spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Samuel Pagdilao, referring to the militants' claims of a campaign to decimate their ranks.

Pagdilao said it was not necessary at this point to create a national task force to investigate the murders. "For you to say that (that the activists were being targeted), there must (be) a pattern, but there is no basis (to say that)," he said.

Pagdilao challenged the activists to back their claims with evidence that the Armed Forces, the PNP or other agents of government were behind the attacks.

Task force?

However, the PNP Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management would be asked to "establish the existence of a pattern of serialized killings victimizing these people," Pagdilao said.

"If there were one, that will guide our leadership to come up with an action like create a task force or assign the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to focus or concentrate on these cases, rather than leave them to the territorial police," he said. *With reports from Norman Bordadora, Luige A. del Puerto and Scott James Roxas in Manila, AFP*

Isabela solon says Aragoncillo is a hero

By Michael Lim Ubac

IN THE EYES OF ISABELA REP Rodito Albano, former Federal Bureau of Investigation analyst Leandro Aragoncillo is a patriot who was only looking after the welfare of his erstwhile countrymen when he downloaded classified US information on the political situation in the Philippines and passed this on to Filipino opposition figures.

"What this (espionage case proves) is his sense of loyalty to the country," Albano told reporters yesterday, as he called on politicians to help Aragoncillo get a lighter sentence.

Aragoncillo pleaded guilty in a US court last week to using his ac-

cess to White House and FBI computers to download and deliver classified information to President Macapagal-Arroyo's political opponents, including former President Joseph Estrada, Sen. Panfilo Lacson and former Speaker Arnulfo Fuentealba, among others.

The House majority said this proved that the opposition, which might have financed Aragoncillo's operation, had actively conspired to oust Ms Arroyo.

A local newspaper (not the INQUIRER) reported that Albano, an Arroyo ally, was the same person identified in US court documents as "Representative No. 1" who was among those who had allegedly received classified material from Ms Arroyo.

Aragoncillo.

Albano would neither confirm nor deny this, saying, "We don't know the circumstance of Representative No 1. What did he do?"

He confirmed exchanging e-mails with Aragoncillo but said these were purely personal messages since they were longtime friends who wrote each other about developments in and out of the Philippines.

Albano admitted that his phone conversations with Aragoncillo were bugged by US authorities but he denied he had received classified information or that he had passed on US assessments of Filipino politicians to Ms Arroyo.

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HEDGE VS HUNGER

Gov't eyes safety nets for poor

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AS THE BOOM IN THE FINANCIAL markets further entrench the country's wealthier classes, an economic adviser of President Macapagal-Arroyo has called for ameliorating policies to ensure economic equity and social harmony.

Acknowledging that the surging stock market may not necessarily be benefiting the mass of Filipinos, administration Rep. Joey Salceda said the

government might need to provide "safety nets" in the form of food stamps, emergency employment and the like to help poor Filipinos cope with hard times.

He also said adjustments in policy may be needed to ensure that the rich would shoulder the bulk of the country's tax burden.

"The new highs in hunger statistics coinciding with a seven-year high in the stock exchange index is a challenge to this administration," the Albay con-

gressman said in an interview.

Salceda made the comments in the face of criticisms that only the more affluent Filipinos have benefited from an apparently improving economy as a result of the new taxes imposed by the administration to carry out fiscal reform and cope with a budget deficit.

The expanded value-added tax, imposed in January, was a key part of the fiscal reforms aimed at raising chronically weak revenues and ensuring a balanced budget by 2008.

The introduction of the expanded VAT helped lift confidence in the country's economic outlook, as reflected in the booming stock market, the surge in the value of the peso and the lowering spreads or interest rates on Philippine government bonds.

To the surprise of even the government officials themselves, economic growth rate in 2005 was higher than expected at 5.1 percent.

power. But the other prospect was worse because the poor gets hit more in a fiscal crisis if we don't pursue fiscal reforms," he said.

Salceda explained that bringing the gains from the fiscal reforms down to the masses would take time and much patience.

"While taxes immediately impact on living standards, it takes time for investments to create new jobs and for increased competition to mitigate price increases. It is exacerbated by leakages in collections where the rich can get away with murder. Similar leakages in expenditure compound the inequity by depriving low-income families of any countervailing benefit," Salceda said.

Tax the rich more

To shorten the time gap between the pain of the present and the gains of the future, Salceda said the government should "modulate" tax collections and spending to ensure that taxation would hit the poor the least, and collect more from the rich.

The government should also spend its resources on "well-targeted and efficiently delivered" social services, he said.

"But the reality is the rich get away by hiring good lawyers and tax accountants, the middle-class just downgrade their lifestyle and the poor's only option is to starve," Salceda said.

For this reason, it is important that the government implement more vigorous safety net programs such as emergency employment, food stamps, lifeline rates, transportation vouchers, he said.

The government could also try to soften the impact of the added VAT on oil by shifting back to the excise tax system, which would exempt future oil price increases from the VAT.

"The situation simply demands stronger measures from the government. We can't rely on markets to correct the distortions in income distribution on account of external shocks and fiscal consolidation," said Salceda.

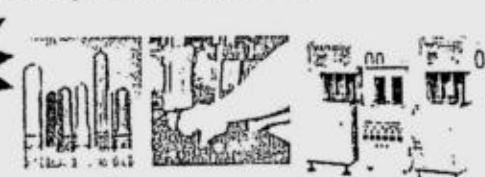
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Demolition job, DepEd exec says of graft raps

AN OFFICIAL OF THE Department of Education (DepEd) branded the graft charges filed against him and five of his colleagues, including DepEd officer-in-charge Fe Hidalgo, as a demolition job.

"Who will benefit from this? Why are the top officials of DepEd being eased out?" DepEd Assistant Secretary Camilo "Bong" Montesa asked.

Montesa also claimed that the complaint, filed by one Evangeline Benitez, was based on "double hearsay."

"We are being implicated based on what the complainant supposedly heard from a person who overheard another person saying that money was to be given to us," Montesa said expressing belief that the complaint is a fictitious person.

In her complaint filed before the Office of the Ombudsman, Benitez claimed that Hidalgo was in collusion with Montesa, Undersecretary Ramon C. Bacani and Antonio Inocentes, Assistant Secretary Jesus G. Galvan and Thelma G. Santos approved the resetting of the May 4 bidding for the supply and delivery of noodles, biscuits and powdered Choco-milk for the DepEd's health and nutrition project worth more than P49 million. Alcuin Papa

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Judge inhibits self from rebellion case, insists decision was voluntary

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A MAKATI JUDGE HAS INHIBITED herself from the rebellion case against Rep. Crispin Beltran and Lt. Lawrence San Juan but said she did so for reasons other than those advanced by the Department of Justice when it formally asked that she excuse herself from hearing the case because of an alleged bias.

Judge Jenny Lind Aldecoa-Delorino insisted during an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday that there was no pressure on her to inhibit herself from the case even if the prosecution had de-

manded she do so in a formal motion.

"There was no pressure from any side," Delorino told the INQUIRER. "It was my own volition to inhibit myself."

The DOJ sought Delorino's inhibition last Monday, saying she exhibited partiality and undue haste when she rejected a move by the prosecution to amend the original indictment against Beltran and San Juan to include 40 other people in the case, including five party-list members of Congress and former Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

She had rejected the amended

criminal information on the ground that it was an altogether new indictment.

Voluntary inhibition

In ruling on the prosecution motion asking for her inhibition last Wednesday, Delorino declared:

"She is voluntarily inhibiting herself not for any of the grounds cited by the prosecution because those grounds do not exist. This judge is mindful that there remains pending ... two motions

filed by [the] accused."

She was referring to a motion by Beltran asking the court determine if there was probable cause to proceed with the trial and another motion by San Juan asking that the rebellion charge be quashed.

"However, any action or ruling that this judge may make on

these pending motions, should she choose not to recuse herself, no matter its correctness and objectivity, will always be subject to question and suspicion on the part of the prosecution, which may ultimately be detrimental to the rights of the accused," she said.

"What the judge did in these

proceedings was to provide a level playing field for all the parties involved, and to rule on the basis of law and jurisprudence, without regard for personal feelings. The prosecution's perception that this judge has acted with manifest bias and partiality is, therefore, downright unfounded," she added.

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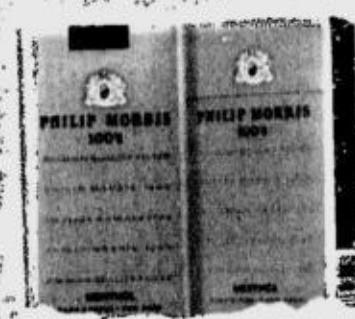
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Environmental group offers 'green fiesta' tips

By Blanche S. Rivera

EXCHANGE THOSE BALLOONS AND PLASTIC "banderitas" for plants. Gather the excess food and give it to the homeless or the neighbors, and the food discards to the dogs. Use cloth table napkins.

These were some of the "green fiesta" tips released by the Ecowaste Coalition, a network of environmental organizations and communities which came out with its to-do list for a zero-waste, or at least, less trashy month of festivities.

Earth-friendly

Responding to what it called a "waste dilemma" during the countless fiestas held around the Philippines during the month of May, the coalition issued practical guidelines to make celebrations, if not waste-free, at least cleaner and greener.

In planning the fiesta, the organizers or the "comite de festejos" should keep the environment in mind and take steps to inform the community about the need for and benefit of an earth-friendly fiesta to inspire everyone to get involved.

Decorations should be made with reusable, recyclable or biodegradable materials. Instead of the usual plastic streamers or balloons, plants and flowers could highlight the homes and venues.

To reduce expenses and leftovers, plan the menu in advance so that food should only be purchased in amounts that are sufficient to feed the household members and guests, Ecowaste suggested.

Banana leaves

Try the traditional banana leaves to serve the meals and use washable table napkins. Share extra food with the neighbors and the needy, or compost the discards if there are no animals to eat them.

Other waste products should be segregated and properly disposed and not mixed, dumped or burned, the group said.

"We can make our fiesta a fitting expression of our communion as stewards of Mother Nature by reducing waste to zero or darn near, putting a stop to all polluting practices, conserving water, electricity and other finite sources, and saving funds for basic needs and charities," Ecowaste

'Tis the feast ...

From page A1

the heavens for that much-awaited son or daughter, the single woman can sway to the music of a brass band during a procession in celebration of the 243rd feast of Señor San Roque in Valenzuela City, and pray for someone to marry.

The yearly fiesta in honor of San Roque is celebrated in other parts of the country in August. But in Valenzuela (formerly Polo), D-Day falls on the 12th of May.

San Roque, who is popular for his supposed healing powers, is now also becoming known as the patron saint of the unmarried, particularly among Valenzuela residents.

Happy stories

"We can no longer trace how the belief started, but we all know of happy stories from those who danced at the procession," said Marithier Menia, who has lived in Valenzuela all her life.

Marithier said one of her favorite stories was that of a woman who danced at the procession after attending a morning Mass during the fiesta some 20 years ago.

"In the evening her ex-boyfriend called her up from the United States and told her that he was coming home to see her," Marithier narrated.

Another woman who danced at the procession and met her husband five months later was Lorena Natividad Borja, a member of the Valenzuela City Council.

"It was an answered prayer, and I really believe it was through the intercession of Señor San Roque," said Lorena, who is happily married to Ian Borja, a councilor of Malabon City. They now have two children.

Lorena said she met Ian through another friend five months after dancing in honor of San Roque in May 2003.

She said she and Ian were introduced in October, got engaged in December, and were married the following year.

'Someone I asked for'

Lorena said that while swaying to the music of the band in the sweltering heat, she fervently prayed to San Roque for a man to marry.

"I'm glad I decided to dance at the fiesta after two years of not being involved with anyone," she said.

Since then, she said, she had made it a family affair to attend the fiesta and the Mass.

But she no longer dances at the procession.

Every time they came to visit, she said, "I would always tease my husband as someone I asked for from San Roque," she said.

Lorena has a piece of advice for those intending to dance at today's procession in Valenzuela: "They must have faith for their prayers to be answered."

'Miracles'

From accounts of the history of the feast of San Roque, the "miracles" started in 1637 when the residents of the town of San Roque came down from the mountains.

The townsfolk were supposedly fleeing the English troops who invaded the barrios of Mabolo, Wakas, Dalandan and Polo, which were all part of Valenzuela.

It is said that in the mountains, the townsfolk had contracted malaria and high fever. But they were instantly cured after holding a procession in honor of the saint.

The procession was said to have been held under the blistering heat of the sun, and in a fiesta atmosphere, with dancing and singing.

Cohesion said in a statement.

Visible garbage stations

Organizers of variety shows, beauty pageants, talent shows, street parties and other festive events were encouraged to set up visible garbage stations for biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste.

The group put together the tips and prepared materials that would be distributed to parishes and communities.

Metro Manila generates at least 5,000 tons of garbage daily, and this increases noticeably on days marked with fiestas, Ecowaste said.

Ecowaste has written the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines

to inform them of the green fiesta ideas and seek help in disseminating the tips.

"(CBCP president) Archbishop Angel Lagdameo... supports your pro-environment advocacy and programs... Your campaign would be properly disseminated through the programs of the CBCP-Ecology office," CBCP secretary general Juanito Figura said in a letter to Ecowaste dated April 19.

Ecowaste also gave ideas on how to reduce waste and pollution from religious processions. The group said parishes should consider doing processions in daylight.

If it is inevitable for the procession to take place in the

evening, use candles that do not emit excessive soot, and fireworks should be avoided, the group said.

"Bursting firecrackers or burning fiesta discs such as plastic bunting, stage props and party disposables discharge persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and other harmful chemicals that can injure our ecosystems and impair the health of humans and other beings," Ecowaste said. With LJ Pasion, trainee

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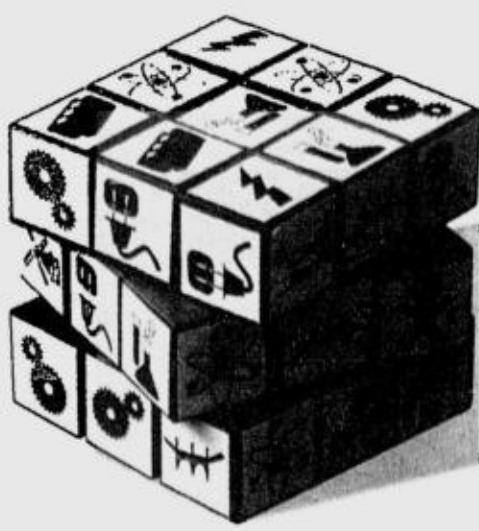
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Political milieu corrupting new lawyers, say legal vets

By Armand N. Nocum

TWO PROMINENT LAWYERS YES-
TERDAY SLAMMED CERTAIN COLLEAGUES IN
THE PROFESSION, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN
GOVERNMENT, FOR BEING BAD EXAMPLES
TO THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE BAR.

ALTHOUGH INTERVIEWED SEPARATELY, IN-
TEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES (IBP)
PRESIDENT ANSELMO CADIZ AND SUPREME
COURT SPOKESPERSON ISMAEL KHAN WERE
ONE IN SAYING THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT
CONTRIBUTED TO THE CORRUPTION OF YOUNG
AND IDEALISTIC LAWYERS.

"IT'S THE POLITICAL MILIEU," SAID
KHAN.

CADIZ WAS MORE FORTHRIGHT, SING-
LING OUT MALACAFIANG LAWYERS WHO
CONTINUED TO JUSTIFY EDICTS ISSUED BY
PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO EVEN IF
THESE HAD BEEN DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL
BY THE SUPREME COURT.

CADIZ BLAMED IT ON "THE GENERAL
MALAISE OF SOCIETY."

THE TWO LAWYERS WERE REACTING TO
CHIEF JUSTICE ARTEMIO PANGANIBAN'S
SPEECH AT THE OATH-TAKING OF THE COUN-

TRY'S 1,526 NEWEST LAWYERS LAST TUESDAY.
PANGANIBAN HAD SAID THAT THE WAY
UNSCRUPULOUS LAWYERS WERE THROWING
LEGAL ETHICS TO THE WIND, THEY COULD BE
WORSE THAN CRIMINALS.

"SOCIETY HAS THE MOST TO FEAR FROM
THESE LAWYERS WHO HAVE A WEALTH OF LEGAL
KNOWLEDGE BUT THREADBARE ETHICAL MOORINGS—
THEY MAY TURN OUT TO BE WORSE
THAN THE CRIMINALS THEY DEFEND," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THERE WERE MANY SMART
LAWYERS WHO HID BEHIND LEGAL TECHNICALITIES
TO ADVANCE THEIR AND THEIR CLIENTS' IN-
TERESTS AT THE EXPENSE OF JUSTICE.

"IN A SOCIETY IN CONSTANT FLUX SUCH AS
OURS, THERE IS AN EVER-GROWING TEMPTA-
TION TO CUT CORNERS FOR EASY SOLUTIONS.
SADLY, SOME LAWYERS HAVE BECOME ADEPT AT
BEING MERELY LEGAL TECHNICIANS DEFENDING
THEIR CLIENT'S CAUSES," HE SAID.

CADIZ AGREED WITH PANGANIBAN BUT
BLAMED POLITICS FOR CORRUPTING THE LE-
GAL PROFESSION.

"IT IS IN THE LEADERSHIP. HOW CAN YOU
EXPECT THE LEGAL PROFESSION TO STAND AS A
LEGAL EXAMPLE WHEN THE ELTERS TASKED TO
LEAD THE WAY ARE HIDING BEHIND TECHNI-

CALITIES," HE SAID, REFERRING TO THE CON-
GRESSMEN-LAWYERS IN THE HOUSE ALIED
WITH MS ARROYO WHO CAUSED THE DIS-
MISSAL OF THE IMPEACHMENT COMPLAINT
AGAINST HER LAST YEAR ON TECHNICALITIES.

BU CADIZ WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT
THAT, IN CONTRAST TO THE FEW WHO PRACTICED
THE PROFESSION FOR MONEY, THERE
WERE THOUSANDS OF PRINCIPLED AND IDE-
ALISTIC LAWYERS WHO WORKED TIRELESSLY
TO ADVANCE THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE.

KHAN ALSO BLAMED THE LAW SCHOOLS FOR
"EMPHASIZING THE MATERIALISTIC ASPECT"
OF THE PROFESSION OVER THE ETHICAL.

"IT'S PART OF THE DAMAGED CULTURE
PHENOMENON—the emphasis on winning
at all cost," KHAN SAID.

THE PROBLEM, HE SAID, WAS COM-
POUNDED BY THE ACTIVITIES OF HIGH-PRO-
FILE LAWYERS IN GOVERNMENT WHO WERE
"NOT EXACTLY PARAGONS OF GOOD, ETHICAL
AND UPRIGHT LEGAL PRACTICE."

THUS, HE SAID, PANGANIBAN HAD TAKEN
IT UPON HIMSELF TO HELP REFORM THE
LEGAL PROFESSION.

"IT'S A QUESTION OF GOING BACK TO THE
CORE VALUES OF THE LAW," HE SAID.

Lafayette asks govt to allow test run

THE MINING FIRM LAFAYETTE
PHL. IS ASKING THE GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW
A TEST-RUN OF ITS RAPU RAPU PROCESSING
OPERATIONS PRIOR TO A FULL RE-
START, SAYING ANY FURTHER DELAY WILL
HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE COM-
PANY'S FINANCES, ITS HOST COMMUNITIES,
AND ON INVESTOR CONFIDENCE.

CARLOS G. DOMINGUEZ, LAFAYETTE
CHAIR AND PRESIDENT, SAID IN A PRESS
STATEMENT THE COMPANY HAD BEEN
MAINTAINING ITS PROJECT IN RAPU RAPU
ISLAND IN ALBAY AT A COST OF SOME P150
MILLION A MONTH THE PAST SIX MONTHS
THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN OPERATING.

"THE NEW MANAGEMENT HAS COM-
PLIED WITH ALL THE REQUIREMENTS AS OF
MID-APRIL AND UNDER THE RULES, WE
SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO TEST IF THE REME-
DIAL MEASURES WE HAVE INSTALLED OPER-
ATE PROPERLY," HE SAID.

DOMINGUEZ SAID THE PROJECT'S FUN-
DERS WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE LEGAL PROCESS
SOONEST ESPECIALLY BECAUSE IT
CONTINUES TO SPEND A LOT OF MONEY
WITHOUT GENERATING ANY INCOME.

"A SIMPLE TEST RUN WILL GO A LONG WAY
IN CALMING INVESTORS IN GENERAL. BE-
SIDES, WE WILL BE USING JUST WATER AND
NON-CHEMICAL-BEARING LOAD TO SEE

WHERE ELSE WE NEED TO FINE-TUNE THE
SYSTEM. AND WE WOULD WELCOME ALL
CONCERNED PARTIES TO OBSERVE," HE SAID.

DOMINGUEZ SAID TIMING IS IMPOR-
TANT BECAUSE THE PROJECT'S PROCESSING
PLANT IS BRAND-NEW AND WOULD HAVE TO
UNDERGO A COMMISSIONING PHASE
WHICH TAKES LONGER THAN IF IT ALREADY
HAD BEEN IN OPERATION BEFORE.

"EVER DAY'S DELAY WILL COST US IN TERMS
OF MAINTENANCE COSTS AND LOST OPPORTU-
NITIES. AT THE SAME TIME, OUR HOST COM-
MUNITIES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FEEL THE FULL
BENEFITS FROM THE PROJECT, WHICH IS THE BIGGEST
INVESTOR IN THE REGION TO DATE," HE SAID.

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SUBIC RAPE TRIAL

When does counting start? Debate rages

By Tarra V. Quismundo

WHEN SHOULD THE COUNTING START?

The opposing camps in the Subic Bay rape case argued in court yesterday over when the counting should begin for the one-year period provided for under the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) to conduct the trial.

During the hearing in Branch 139 of the Makati Regional Trial Court, the private prosecutors and the lawyers of the four US Marines charged with raping a Filipino woman in Subic, vied to have their opposing interpretations of the VFA provision accepted by the court.

The VFA, the RP-US pact that allows American troops in the country to hold joint exercises with the Philippine military, prescribes a one-year period within which trials of US servicemen charged in Philippine courts must be completed.

The VFA, however, does not say when the period should begin, whether from the time charges are filed or upon the arraignment of the accused.

Hence, while the private prosecutors began counting from April 28, when the accused were arraigned, the defense panel started counting from Dec. 27 last year, when the case was filed in court.

It was on Nov. 1, 2005, that four US Marines—Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpenter

and Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood, Daniel Smith and Dominic Duplantis—allegedly raped the Filipino woman in a cruising van in the Subic Bay Freeport.

Following a preliminary investigation, rape charges were filed against them 56 days after the alleged commission of the crime, on Dec. 27, 2005.

Defense lawyer Jose Justiniano told reporters:

"Our position is that it should begin when the information was filed in court. They [prosecution] have a different interpretation but for us that's not important ... What matters is that we start talking about the accusations. Besides, if the one-year period lapses we have an extradition treaty and there are remedies to that, and what they fear has no basis."

However, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, one of the private prosecutors, said: "Under the treaty, the one-year period should start upon the beginning of judicial proceedings, meaning [the case is] already in court and the process has started. So our stand is the one-year period starts from the beginning of judicial proceedings. And when is that? Upon arraignment."

Branch 139 Judge Benjamin Pozon assured both parties he would resolve the matter and that he was ready to hold frequent hearings to complete the trial within the prescribed one-year period.

Japan eases OFW restrictions

By Jerome Aning

SENIOR LABOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS yesterday said Japan has conditionally agreed to withdraw its demand that the deployment to Japan of Filipino health workers be governed by a quota system.

"They've agreed to a non-quota arrangement but we've accepted some restrictions, probably the capacity of training institutions to accept a number of nurses, based on existing migration laws," said Danilo Cruz, the undersecretary for employment.

The quota issue has been the major sticking point in the ongoing negotiations on a free trade agreement between the two countries that was supposed to open up Japan's health sector to Filipino health workers.

But Japan, the Philippines' second largest trading partner after the United States, wants to limit to 100 the number of Filipino health workers allowed to work there.

Filipino nurses and certified caregivers would be allowed into Japan only after completing training on Nihongo and other subjects in preparation for obtaining their Japanese license.

The Philippines has been insisting on a "demand-based" deployment of nurses and caregivers to Japan where the market for their services is quite large because of the country's rapidly aging population.

"These are still not the final results of the negotiations, but there is already a common understanding. There's a specific provision there that there would be no quota arrangements. It's almost done, only the legal wording is being finalized," he said.

Cruz said that the soon-to-be-finalized agreement provides that the six-month training process would be done in Japan. He said the Japanese would take the responsibility of training the Filipino workers at no cost to the Philippines.

"But we still have not determined the capacity of the training institutions, that will be determined in the implementation," he said.

The two countries also have yet to determine how large the initial deployment would be "but it will be continuous and not one-time," Cruz said.

Cruz, who is part of the Filipino negotiating team, stressed that the new deal was just a portion of the treaty, officially called the Japan-Philippines

Economic Partnership Agreement, which must be approved in its entirety by both sides.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas earlier said the Philippines was standing pat on its no-quota stand, particularly because the Japanese did not state during the negotiations exactly how many Filipino health workers they would be taking.

Cruz also noted that similar trade agreements that Japan had concluded with Mexico and Singapore did not include provisions on the movement of nationals.

He said the planned visit next month of Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi would boost the chances of the treaty being approved soon.

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Isabel G. Castillo; 85

THE ASHES OF ISABEL GENEROSO Castillo of Bauan, Batangas, will arrive in Manila on May 15 and brought the following day to Funeraria Paz at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque City.

After a Mass at 2:30 p.m. on May 17, her ashes will be interred beside the grave of her husband, Dr. Benjamin A. Castillo.

A resident of Canada for the

past 13 years, Castillo passed away at 85 last May 6 (Vancouver time) at the Eagle Ridge Hospital in Port Moody, British Columbia.

A funeral Mass was held on May 9 at a local Catholic church, after which her remains were cremated.

Castillo is survived by her children, Benjie, Maribel, Randy, Bobby and Toti, their spouses, and 10 grandchildren.

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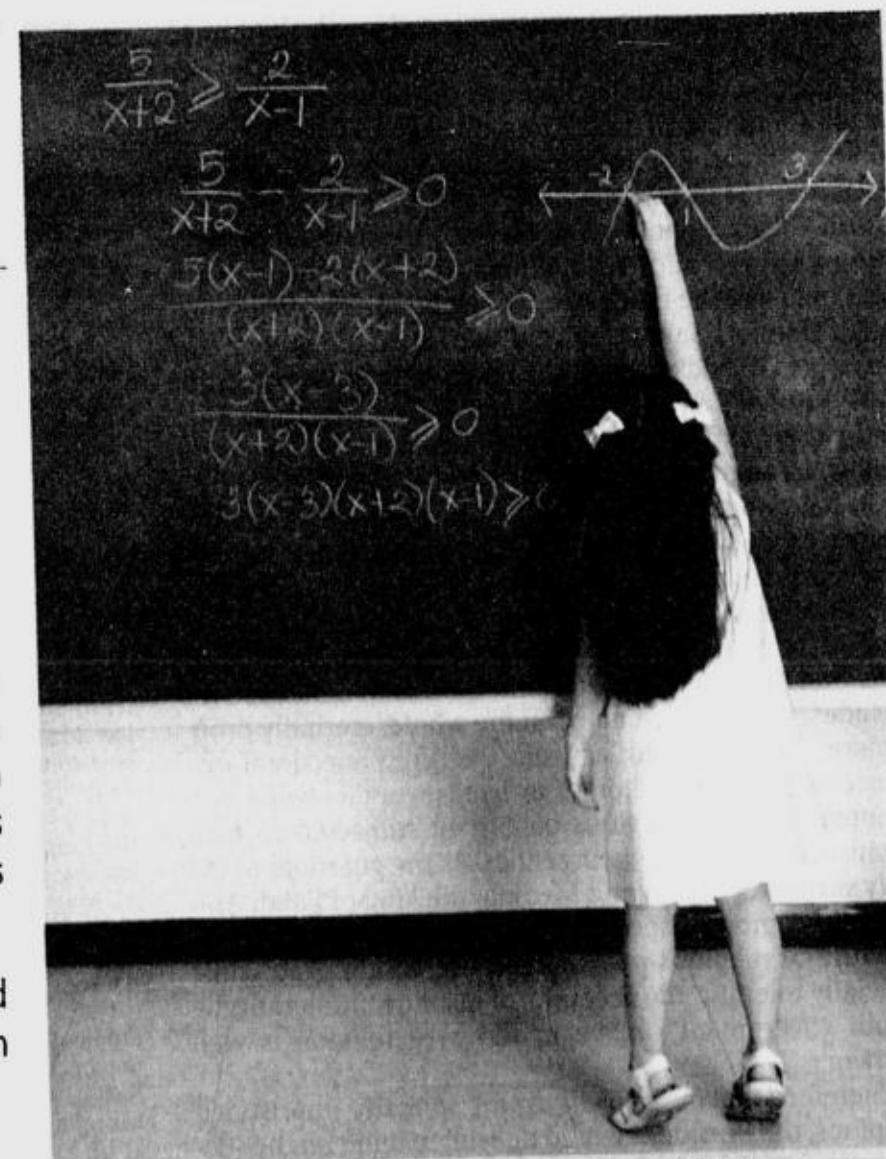
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THE DAILY GOSPEL



Friday, May 12, 2006

4th Week of Easter

Nereus and Achilleus/Pancras

1st Reading: Acts 13:26-33

Gospel: John 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be troubled; trust in God and trust in me. In my Father's house there are many rooms. Otherwise I would not have told you that I go to prepare a place for you. After I have gone and prepared a place for you, I shall come again and take you to me, so that where I am, you also may be. Yet you know the way where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me."

Commentary
Like Peter, Paul preaches the story of Jesus, rejected, crucified and raised from the dead. And he proclaims Jesus as the fulfillment of the promises of the prophets: "You are my son; this day I have begotten you." And this is the message we take to heart: we are all the sons and daughters of God. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life and we come to the Father with Jesus' own Spirit, and we come together. Grace given to us that comes to us through others.

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A politician's gift

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S OFFICIAL visit to Saudi Arabia was most remarkable not for what it achieved, but for what it dispelled. For months, the President had been hounded by rumors that she was keen on polishing her image by traveling abroad. However, as even personalities identified as close to, or influential with, the administration kept talking about the President's desire to go abroad, the

EDITORIAL hints kept hitting a blank wall of official indifference overseas. This was especially true days before the 20th anniversary of EDSA I, when Ms Arroyo was said to have been particularly eager to visit either the United States or Saudi Arabia.

That the President finally got to go to the Middle East, firmly dispels the notion that she is a kind of international pariah. And it accorded her the opportunity to do what she does best: putting her best foot forward overseas. Philippine presidents have always relished "showing the flag" abroad, and it is fair to say Ms Arroyo does so with panache.

Presidential visits are more than about bantam-style strutting on the world stage, of course. Ms Arroyo went to Saudi Arabia with three objectives in mind: to negotiate some kind of favorable guarantees concerning oil supplies; to lobby for the observer status for the Philippines in the Organization of Islamic Countries, and to intercede for her fellow citizens. With regard to oil, the President is now trumpeting achievements that may be so rhetorical as to be essentially meaningless. In terms of the decades-long lobbying effort for the country to sit in the OIC, she suffered no public reversal, so it can be claimed as a diplomatic move forward. As to her appeal to the king of Saudi Arabia to extend clemency to Filipinos who had run afoul of the law, that clearly was an overwhelming success.

The President's visit underscores the reality that she is a better politician than economist. That is to say, she has the politician's gift for squeezing the most publicity and media mileage from what may be fairly inconsequential business talks. In the Saudi Arabian scheme of things, guaranteeing a steady price for oil to the Philippines isn't a priority; and even if it were, far larger factors can always intrude into whatever commitments the Saudi monarch and his government may have made. Continued regional instability focusing on Iran and American aggressiveness toward that country, the insatiable thirst for oil of China, and India's rapidly expanding economy could sustain the roller coaster-like fluctuations of crude prices due to limited supplies.

Still, the President was received by the new Saudi king. She got to meet and greet Filipino workers, and following her home was the first batch among hundreds of Filipinos languishing in Saudi jails. On that score alone, her trip was worth it, and deserves the nation's appreciation. Still, the President's efforts placed a spotlight on the tragic side of the OFW experience. And the question is, what sort of follow-through there will be.

To have so many Filipinos in jail in a foreign country points to the challenges they face, and these include problems not of their own making. Unfair and oppressive contracts, inferior and degrading working conditions, the lack of adequate treaty safeguards for Filipinos overseas—all these are problems that OFWs have endured for decades, but which remain, on the whole, eternally problematic. We must add, as well, the often anecdotal evidence of Filipinos and other overseas workers being persecuted for their religious beliefs, or subjected to maltreatment because of their gender. As the guardian of the holy shrines of Mecca and Medina, the king of Saudi Arabia has religious responsibilities supported by an infrastructure of religious policing and regulation. And while officially tolerant, the accounts of just how intolerant the Saudi government can be in terms of religion is well known.

Therefore, having spoken up for so many imprisoned Filipinos, the President would do well to build on the success of her visit and negotiate agreements with the Saudi government that will prevent the abuse and persecution of Filipinos. She could assume a leading role for other nations that find themselves in a situation similar to ours, the nations that depend on the sweat and toil of their citizens abroad, but whose governments do little to protect their rights.



Setting the record straight (2)

(Continued from May 10)

I APOLOGIZE TO READERS WHO MAY BE bored by this narration of this problem among neighboring subdivisions over vehicle sticker fees, but this problem is not unique. Many other villages have similar problems and this column may help their residents understand the issues and find solution. Besides, a letter to the editor from the presidents of three subdivisions last April 24 contained falsehoods and inaccuracies which, if not corrected, may give the wrong impression to readers.

For example, the letter said that "the Mira Nila clubhouse was built with the help of public funds." False. The clubhouse was built by the homeowners before Dante Liban and Chuck Mathay became congressmen. What Mathay did was put a roof over an existing basketball court during the 2004 election campaign. The funds came from his pork barrel, but curiously it was a billboard proclaiming that it was a project of President Macapagal-Arroyo, complete with her smiling face, that was put up beside the project. Nothing about Mathay.

What Liban did was pay the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation to plant tree seedlings and put up picnic tables and lighting in an existing forest park. The picnic tables and lighting system are gone now. The wooden tables rotted away and the light bulbs and buried electric wires were stolen. The Japanese-style stone lanterns were vandalized by squatters. Residents of neighboring subdivisions now play in the courts and enjoy the park.

The letter also said that "the main roads of the subdivision were given a new coat of asphalt, again with the help of the Quezon City government." Only half-true. Not all the main roads, but only those leading to Maries and the other subdivisions. The reason is that they were so battered by the great number of vehicles passing through and by numerous diggings by the government for water connections. Whose are the vehicles passing through? Guess.

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UP study on NorthRail: Some clarifications

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan



THE NORTHRAIL CAMPAIGN AGAINST ITS critics was revived recently, especially after the Supreme Court struck down Executive Order 464, a gag order that banned executive officials from testifying before legislative hearings, and which Malacañang issued and invoked one day before the Senate was about to hold a hearing on the NorthRail project.

In Senate of the Philippines v. Ermita, the Supreme Court noted that the Senate scheduled a "public hearing sparked by a privilege speech of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile urging the Senate to investigate the alleged overpricing and other unlawful provisions of the ... NorthRail Project." Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago had also criticized the project for being overpriced, while Sen. Richard Gordon had lamented that it fails to respond to the needs of the Subic and Clark economic zones.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, acting upon the Senate resolution, had referred the matter to the UP Law Center for study. I was then law dean, and I convened several faculty members to conduct the study, among them, the venerable Bartolome C. Fernandez Jr., former senior commissioner and general counsel of the Commission on Audit and author of the leading work on state contracts; Dean Merlin M. Magallona, former undersecretary of foreign affairs; Prof. Harry Roque, who went to the University of Michigan for college and to the London School of Economics for his LL.M., currently director of the International Legal Studies Institute; Florin Hilbay, 1999 bar topnotcher, Yale LL.M. and currently vice chair of Bantay Katarungan; Solomon Lumba, 2000 bar topnotcher and currently also teaching law at UP. I told these professors something that I was sure they already knew: this was an independent study, and they were free to make their own findings, which I would then transmit to the Senate.

The panel concluded that the NorthRail contract had been improperly packaged as an executive agreement. The Supreme Court has elsewhere ruled that executive agreements are treaties and are governed by the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties—which means that only sovereign states can enter into these agreements. In other words, the NorthRail agreements were signed with Chinese corporations, not sovereign states, and were improper. Moreover, as an executive agreement, it would have evaded the open and competitive public bidding required under Republic Act 9184, the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Since then, NorthRail has embarked on a publicity campaign against the UP Law Center, and indeed one of its spokesmen even asked for the abolition of the Law Center itself! A few clarifications are in order.

One, the very first legal opinion of the UP Law Center on the NorthRail project in fact was issued in May 2005, months before GMA's crisis of legitimacy broke out when the existence of the Garcí tapes was announced by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye. It was made by the Law Center's Institute of Government and Law Reform. Neither Roque nor I was part of it, since it had been directly addressed to the institute's director, Prof. Carmelo Sison. That request was made by Sen. Joker Arroyo for the Senate blue ribbon committee, and not by the Senate president. It was limited to just one of the contracts involved, and did not touch on the rules that require a public bidding.

And what did that study say? That indeed it could not have been a valid executive agreement, and that the Constitution requires the concurrence of the Monetary Board for foreign loans contracted or guaranteed by the Republic. The UP Law Center has been criticized for being part of the post-Garcí politics between Drilon and GMA, yet it began the study even before the Garcí scandal erupted.

That is why villages like Embassy and Tierra Pura 6, which have no alternate routes, are charged only half, like the Mira Nila residents who, by the way, also pay P400 monthly membership dues, including those whose houses are on T.M. Kalaw, and thus rarely use other Mira Nila streets.

As for the school buses and delivery trucks, they are commercial vehicles operated for profit. They are heavy vehicles that cause more wear and tear on the streets. Shouldn't they pay for passing through private streets?

Why has Mira Nila increased its sticker fees? Well, don't they know that prices of everything are rising? The power rate for the street lights has risen. The price of gasoline for the grass cutters and blowers go up every week. The prices of construction materials have also gone up.

The petition of Maries Village with the HLURB is also full of false claims. It said, "T.M. Kalaw Street and Alondras Street are public roads... maintained by the city government." False. They are maintained by the Homeowners' Association. They were repaired only once by the city because of so many public diggings. Passersby can see the repairs and street improvements now going on. They're all being funded by Mira Nila residents.

To summarize, those (pardon the expression) "freeloaders" and "tightwads" who don't want to pay for car stickers are free to do so. All they have to do is avoid passing through TMK and use the other access routes. If they still want the convenience of passing through TMK without paying, they can leave an acceptable ID with the security guard.

When Congressional Avenue is finished, they will have direct routes to their subdivisions. They will no longer have to pass through Tierra Pura and Mira Nila and will not have to pay for car stickers. So instead of pressuring City Hall, the HLURB and the courts to stop Mira Nila from issuing car stickers, shouldn't they be pressuring the national government to finish Congressional Avenue quickly?

UP study on NorthRail: Some clarifications

Second, it has been said that the UP Law Center had wrongly attributed the project to the China National Machinery & Equipment Corp. (CNMEC), rather than CNMEG (the CNME Group, which is supposedly more reputable than the former). Was it a mistake indeed? I have looked at copies of the relevant documents. Both these terms have been used by NorthRail itself, in both the contract papers and its own public statements.

The Contract Agreement was with "China National Machinery & Equipment Corporation (Group)." The Conditions of Contract was signed with "China National Machinery & Equipment Corporation (Group) (CNMEG)." Indeed, NorthRail's own full-page advertisement used these terms interchangeably, which is understandable given the contract papers cited above. This whole game of acronyms, mind you, does not release NorthRail from having to explain the bypassing of a public bidding through the improper use of an executive agreement.

Third, some NorthRail spokesmen have asked why the UP Law Center conducted the study at all, yet its own charter expressly mandates the Law Center to undertake legal studies upon request by the Senate acting "in aid of legislation." Historically, how can UP academics be faulted if they issue a legal opinion that politicians of various hues contest? (Congress itself requested some law deans, myself included, to give a legal opinion on whether the Garcí tapes were admissible in evidence. So, private law schools can speak, but not UP? Wow.)

The media attacks are clever twice over. They amount to old-style squid tactics in propaganda, so that all of a sudden the issue is no longer whether executive agreements are a valid way to short-circuit the requirement of a public bidding—but instead, the issue is the UP Law Center. It is time for NorthRail to address the actual legal issues, instead of slaying the bearers of bad news that came in the form of a legal opinion it so abhors.

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com



FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2006

A silent rebellion against the Church

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



economic consequences of having too many mouths to feed.

The poor are voting on the issue of birth control on slender or empty pockets, and they are staging a silent rebellion against the Church's approach to population control. This rebellion should be a cue to conservative governments that the threat of the Church's political retaliation through denial of its support is a phantom and thus, there is no valid reason to be timid about pushing a population-control program.

The new statistics also suggest that the government could have more dramatic results in its poverty-reduction program if it pursues a more aggressive population-control program, and that such a program is not a political liability.

There is a natural constituency for the program among the poor who appear receptive to easier access to contraceptives promoted by the state. There have been a number of issues on which Church and state (or government) interests have collided, among them constitutional revision, the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the opening of the mining industry to wider participation by foreign mining interests, *jueting* and the ban on logging in primary forests, but population control cannot be a damaging issue for an administration pushing it aggressively.

It is an issue on which the Church cannot hold the administration hostage for fear of political fallout. The administration is more likely to lose in its conflict with the Church on issues other than the size of their families in response to the dire

on artificial birth control. Population control is an issue with which the government could broaden its constituency among the poor. Whatever the Church says, the poor are likely to avail themselves of any means to lift themselves from poverty. The number of children they will have in their families will be determined by economics. The upper classes have already made their own decisions in determining their social and economic mobility. They have fewer children than the poor. Economics determined their decisions.

According to Neri, Neda's 1.94 percent target will enhance the country's chances of hitting its poverty-reduction target over the medium term. The target is to reduce the proportion of the population living below the poverty line from 45.3 percent in 1991 to 22.7 percent by 2015. The proportion of the population living in poverty in 2003 stood at 30.4 percent. With this reduction rate, the Philippines has virtually paid lip service to its commitment, under the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations, to reduce the number of people living in poverty to 22.7 percent of the population.

Neri has therefore no reason to crow over the 1.95 rate of population growth. The Arroyo administration had nothing to do with it. The government has washed its hands of the population-control program by entrusting to local governments the responsibility for the determination of "appropriate measures." It has passed the buck to local governments in order to avoid the political repercussions arising from the Church's opposition to the program through its nationwide network of parishes.

The main source of contraceptives in the country is foreign donation, particularly from the United Nations Population Fund. There is no government machinery that provides free access to contraceptives and information about family planning and birth control.

Global mamas

FILIPINOS LIKE TO BOAST ABOUT HOW MUCH WE LOVE our mothers, but I've often wondered how much of that loving translates into real caring.

The other day, I stumbled upon the "State of the World's Mothers" report for 2006 compiled by Save the Children USA. Apparently, they've been doing this global report card for a few years now, rating and ranking countries as to how mother-friendly they are by using several indicators, which I'll describe shortly.

Before looking at the indicators let's look at the Philippines' ranking for the Mothers' Index, relative to the world, and to Asia. Globally, among 125 countries, the Philippines ranked almost exactly midway at 63rd. Other Asian countries had the following ranks: Japan was 12th, China and Thailand 39th, Vietnam 44th, Malaysia 52nd, Indonesia and Sri Lanka 69th, India 93rd, Laos 94th, Bangladesh 106th, Cambodia, Nepal and Pakistan 107th.

How was the Mothers' Index constructed? Save the Children combined several indicators to construct a Women's Index and a Children's Index, which were then combined to yield the Mother's Index. This research method makes some sense since a mother's situation depends on how she is treated as a woman, and how much of support services are available for children.

The indicators for the Women's Index are lifetime risk of maternal mortality, percent of births attended by skilled personnel, percent of pregnant women with anemia, percent of women using modern family planning, literacy rate for adult females and percent of national government seats held by women.

For the Children's Index, the indicators are infant mortality rate (how many children die before the age of one), percent of children enrolled in primary school, percent of population with access to safe water and percent of children under the age of 5 who suffer from moderate or severe nutritional wasting.

Certainly, the indicators themselves will have limitations. For example, the percentage of women with national government seats is very important for advancing women's (and mothers') concerns but, as we only too sadly know in the Philippines, even having a woman President does not necessarily mean we have a champion for women's issues.

Mother friendliest

I'm sure we can all think of many other indicators we'd like included in both the Women's Index and Children's Index, but when you're trying to compare more than a hundred countries, you have to be quite selective in choosing the indicators.

The global report card for mothers does allow us to draw some insights as to how countries might become more mother friendly. When I first glanced at the rankings, I could already tell that the situation of mothers does not correlate with a country's economic status.

The oil-rich Middle Eastern countries ranked lower than the Philippines (Saudi Arabia was a dismal 83rd). The United States, the world's most economically powerful country, only ranked 10th with the Mothers' Index because its health care system is so deficient. US infant mortality rate, for example, is even higher than those of some developing countries.

Similarly, Japan, the world's second largest economy, only ranked 12th in the Mothers' Index, the poorest performed among industrialized countries. This shouldn't be surprising since women's status continues to lag far behind men's in that bastion of male conservatism. The contraceptive pill, for example, was not approved in Japan until a few years ago, with Japanese women's groups grumbling that it took their government more than 30 years to do so and less than a year to allow Viagra for the men.

Not surprisingly, the Scandinavian countries topped the league for mothers, with Sweden leading the pack, followed by Denmark and Finland. These social-welfare states are well known for their package of benefits for mothers, including maternal leaves for as long as two years.

If you look at the Asian countries that do well in the Mothers' Index, you'll find that they too generally have strong state-supported social services. Note that it isn't just health services that count. Save the Children's report has extensive discussions on the importance of girls' access to education. Countries where girls are taken out of schools early will also fare poorly with women's and children's health.

Surrogate mothers

Being midway in the global rankings tells us we're not doing too badly, but we certainly can do much more. Our health centers are good, with services like immunizations and prenatal care, but we're neglecting one vital area, which is family planning. A new twist to this neglect is the way we seem to want to wish away the problem, through the statistics. The INQUIRER's front page yesterday quoted Socio-Economic Secretary Romulo Neri as claiming that the population growth rate has dropped. But how can he make this claim when we haven't had a national census since the year 2000, canceling the 2005 census supposedly because government had no money?

Our mothers deserve more than headline statistics and publicity gimmicks, like the city of Manila herding in more than 3,000 mothers so it could claim a new world record of simultaneous breastfeeding. This in a city that bans the promotion of "artificial" family planning in its health centers.

There is one indicator that is important if we really want to assess our situation, and this is the number of mothers who are forced, by economic circumstances, to work overseas, separated from their children. I have no exact figures, but I am certain this runs into a million at the very least. We have to remember, too, it's not just overseas work that separates mothers from their children; many of our rural women end up working in urban households as domestic helpers, leaving their children behind.

This Mother's Day, in many countries throughout the world, children will be honoring Filipino nannies and housekeepers who have become their second mothers. Many Filipinas aren't just global nannies, they're now global nanay-global mamas, often at great cost to their own children back home. This Mother's Day then, we would do well to honor the country's many surrogate mothers—the aunts, grandmothers, godmothers, adoptive mothers and many others included—who try to fill the vacuum, no questions asked, no conditions on the love for the children they've taken into their homes.

What about the teenage mom?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



the relatively puny nature of her alleged offenses, and the very reasonable explanations she offered.

What Doyo did not mention is that Sally's husband Gerry, who apart from being an "activist and intellectual" has also previously served as an undersecretary at the Department of Agrarian Reform, is also one of the convenors of the Black and White Movement, a broad coalition of groups and individuals advocating good governance, including ferreting out the truth behind the "Hello Garci" controversy.

Malacañang will, of course, have perfectly reasonable-sounding explanations not just for Sally's dismissal, but also the destruction of her reputation and good name. Meanwhile, a Black and White spokesperson wonders: "What is the PAGC doing about people like Joc Joc Bolante? What is the Ombudsman doing about the Comelec? Absolutely nothing."

A MASS of the Resurrection will be held at 9 this morning at the Miriam College Chapel in memory of Sr. Miriam Thomas Thornton, MM, 96, who passed away last May 7.

Sr. Miriam Thomas is best remembered in the Philippines as having served as president of Maryknoll College from 1968-1976. When the Maryknoll Sisters decided to relinquish control of the college to a board composed of lay people, the choice of the new name "Miriam College" for the institution was attributed, in part, to the esteem with which the community and alumni held Sr. Miriam Thomas.

She spent much of her religious life in the Philippines, which was her first mission assignment in 1934, serving as a high school teacher in Baguio until 1942 when she was interned in Los Baños along with other Americans until 1945. After the war, she taught in Lucena and in the Quezon City campus, leaving for the United States for further studies and to take on other duties, until her return to the country in 1968.

Ill health necessitated her return to Maryknoll, NY in 1996 where she entered Residential Care. Sr. Miriam Thomas had been a Maryknoll Sister for 76 years, and was buried in the Sisters cemetery yesterday.

Lost in translation

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



looked, Romanillos remarked, "According to Cavite City folks, the vituperative phrase *mga jindut di cachichao* literally means 'persons with f---g foul-smelling feet' which Alzona's imaginative translation refers to Castilians!"

Romanillos also found another example of something lost in translation in the textbook biography of Rizal by Gregorio and Sonia Zaide. To magnify Rizal's linguistic gifts, they cited a letter Rizal wrote to Fernando Canon in July 1887, describing the nationalities of 50 different passengers traveling with him on the steamer Djennah and stated that Rizal was the only Filipino on board and that being multilingual he acted as interpreter in this floating Tower of Babel. While the Zaide tandem over-read by stating that Rizal acted as translator for others, they also under-read by ignoring the two other Chabacano-speaking Filipinos [early OFWs?] on board that Rizal engaged in a game of chess. The Zaides also missed out on two English prostitutes accompanying three Chinese men: in Rizal's racial catalogue, he recorded "3 chinos con dos p. inglesas." One can guess the four-letter word abbreviated by Rizal here.

The Romanillos book not only situates Cavite Chabacano in its proper socio-historico-cultural context, it also provides an anthology of Chabacano literature for our appreciation. The rhymes on food are particularly fascinating. Language as a mirror of culture and society once made me consider linguistics as a field of specialization, but when I realized that linguistics took the humanities out of language and reduced it to abstract, almost algebraic, symbols, I gave up.

Through this surprisingly readable book, we hope other researchers will follow suit, to broaden not only our knowledge of languages but also our knowledge of ourselves as Filipinos.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

THIS PAPER CARRIED A HEARTWARMING "POSITIVE" story on the front page yesterday about a family (a widow and her two adult children) living in an urban poor area in Vitas, Tondo, who, despite their meager daily budget of P50 a day, adopted the unwanted baby boy of a teenage mother.

The story, written by Christian Esguerra, traced the background of the adoption of Sandin Lee, who has just turned one. His birth mother, then 18 years old and pregnant with her second child, had told Sally Ruiz, 58, the adoptive mother-to-be, that she wanted to undergo an abortion, feeling she wasn't up to the demands of parenthood. Sally, a counselor on natural family planning in her area, told Esguerra she was in the throes of an "empty nest" syndrome herself, yearning for company since her two adult children were away at work for most of the day, and so thought of adopting the girl's child. It was also her way of ensuring that the girl did not push through with her planned abortion, she said.

In one part of his story, Esguerra said the story behind the boy's adoption "illustrates the continuing battle between the 'pro-life' camp, which frowns on contraception or abortion as a means of controlling population growth, and the 'pro-choice' sector, which advocates a strong information campaign and the availability of family planning methods to couples."

I BEG to disagree. Sandin's story illustrates, for me, the need precisely for a strong information campaign on reproductive health and family planning, and for the availability of services, particularly to poor young women like Sandin's mother. (Besides, neither does the "pro-choice" sector believe that abortion should be pushed as a "family planning" method.)

What kind of counseling did Sandin's mother receive in school, at home or from other significant adults in her life? Being a teenager, was she able to access full and accurate information on relationships, sexuality and the means to protect herself from the unwanted consequences of unprotected sex, such as pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections?

THERE ARE SO MANY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS in the country that one will find it hard to count them all. Three are national: Philippine Historical Association, Philippine National Historical Society and Adhika. The rest are local, and the two most active in terms of activities and publications are the Kapampangan Studies Center and the Cavite Historical Society.

Last Friday, I found myself in Fort San Felipe, Cavite City, which is run by the Philippine Navy. This is the site of the historic uprising that led to the execution of Fathers Gomez, Burgos and Zamora in 1872. This had completely slipped my mind when I accepted the invitation to deliver remarks during the launch of yet another publication of the Cavite Historical Society, "Chabacano Studies: Essays on Cavite's Chabacano Language and Literature," by Emmanuel Luis A. Romanillos. Thus, it was a double treat to walk around what is left of historic Fort San Felipe and also to hear dialogue that highlighted spoken Cavite Chabacano, which is Spanish-based, and Ternate Chabacano, which is Portuguese-based.

There is so much history embedded in language it's a pity that the use of Chabacano has dwindled when it used to be widely spoken in Zamboanga, Cavite and pre-war Ermita. The few instances I heard snippets of Chabacano when I was growing up was when some old people played cards or mahjong. The late former mayor of Zamboanga, Maria Clara Lobregat, kept a pile of Chabacano dictionaries by her desk to give as gifts to friends and visitors. I regret not browsing through it, because during the recent negotiations for the RP-Mexico Joint Commission on Cultural and Educational Cooperation in Mexico City, our man from the Department of Foreign Affairs taught us some invented Chabacano phrases to confound our Mexican counterparts. The most memorable of these were: "Cosa ba ese?" (translation: Ano ba iyan?), "morisqueta tostada"

(sinangag) and my favorite, "No se con vosotros!" (Ewan ko sa inyo!). Sounds Spanish, but if you have a good ear, you will notice that it is not quite Spanish.

When Cesar E.A. Virata, president of the Cavite Historical Society, invited me to deliver remarks at the book launching, I accepted without thinking, presuming wrongly that the book would be yet another Chabacano grammar or dictionary that one did not read from cover to cover. These books are best consigned to the reference shelf and consulted only when needed. To prepare, I read a postcard in Chabacano that Rizal sent Pedro Paterno and, of course, the hilarious Chabacano dialogue preserved in Chapter 28 of "El Filibusterismo" that, more often than not, gets lost in translation. I planned to display some erudition at the launch, only to have the rug pulled from under my feet because when the book arrived in the office, the day before, I saw that the author had tackled Rizal and Chabacano in his work.

Having re-read Rizal and Chabacano so closely, Romanillos found some interesting items that slipped by me because these tend to be "lost in translation" as well. For example, in a letter from Evaristo Aguirre to Rizal, dated May 1887, is a line that reads: "Lintic! bueno sana topo rayo con todo este *mga jindut de cachichao!*" In the 1961 English translations of Rizal's correspondence, Encarnacion Alzona rendered this rude line as: "Lintic! It will be good if lightning strikes these Castilas!" In a footnote that should not be over-

Global mamas

FILIPINOS LIKE TO BOAST ABOUT HOW MUCH WE LOVE our mothers, but I've often wondered how much of that loving translates into real caring.

The other day, I stumbled upon the "State of the World's Mothers" report for 2006 compiled by Save the Children USA. Apparently, they've been doing this global report card for a few years now, rating and ranking countries as to how mother-friendly they are by using several indicators, which I'll describe shortly.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



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Michael L. Tan



Filipino dishes now a 'Dutch treat'

I READ THE ARTICLE ON KULINARYA, "Four chefs serve a smorgasbord of food ideas (2)," (PDI, 5/7/06) with great interest because I enjoy cooking Philippine dishes and I take great pride at what we can offer the world.

Not much is known about Philippine dishes over here and so a lot of people were amazed when I introduced them to Bicol express and laing, among others. Now, these dishes are simply

"must-haves" every time I invite my Dutch in-laws as well as friends and colleagues.

I believe that dishes with coconut milk and chilis should also get priority in the 40 selected menus for showcase in the international market as they simply capture the expectations about Asian and, in particular, Philippine dishes.

—MARIA LUISA PRESTADO,
m prestado@hotmail.com

Canada celebrates its cultural diversity

AS A FILIPINO-CANADIAN, I WAS appalled by what a Canadian "educator" and school principal made 7-year-old boy suffer for using a spoon and fork to eat. I've lived in Canada for 20 years and never did any of my teachers or peers belittle me for my cultural practices.

I am proud to say that Canada is a multicultural country and is proud to celebrate diversity. However, what the two

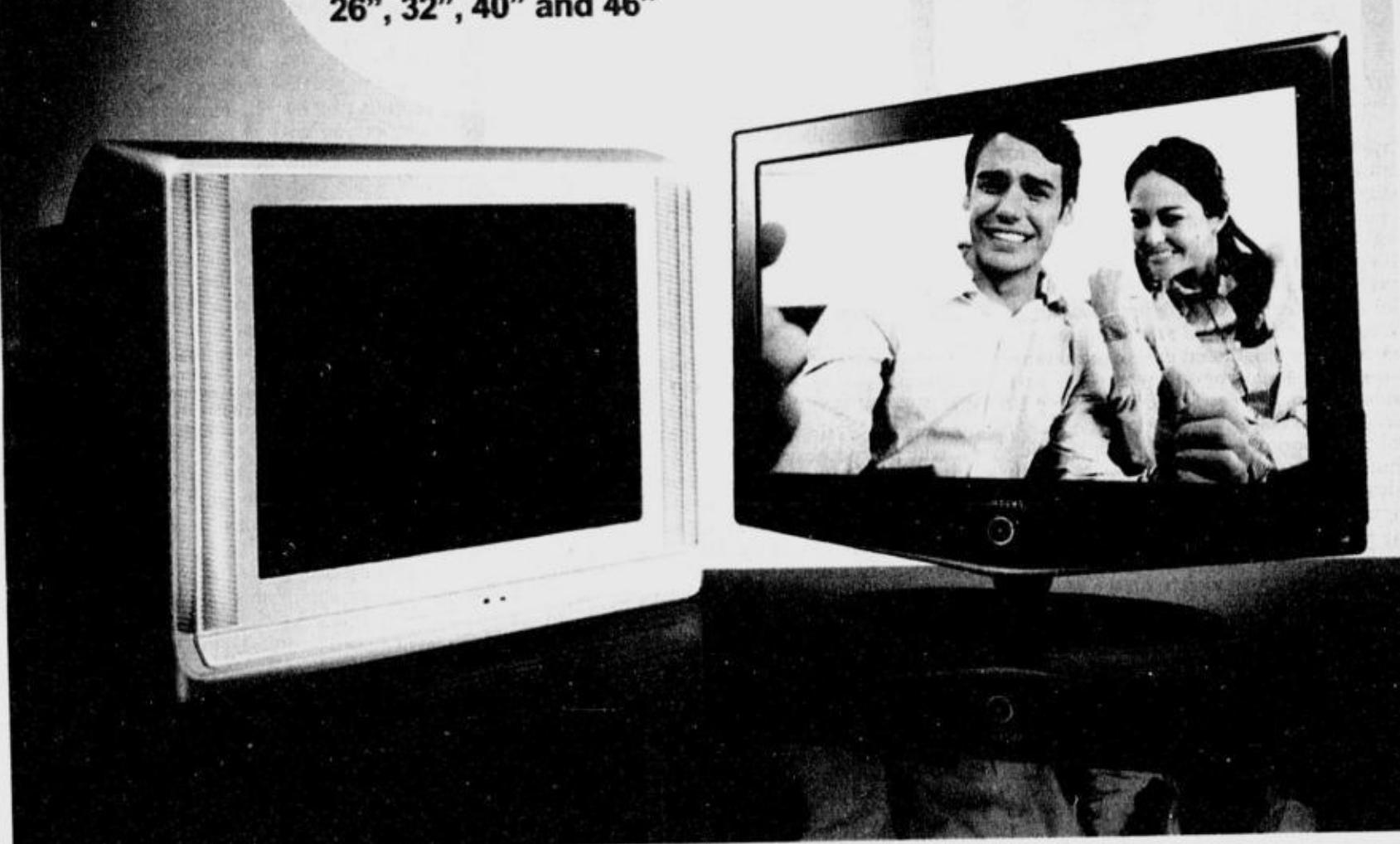
school officials did to the boy showed pure and utter ignorance and prejudice.

Please let everyone know in the Philippines that there are good people and teachers (I'm one of them) in Canada, and that not everybody thinks the same way as the two in that school in Montreal.

—GINA GARCIA-ROSI,
ginagarcia_rosi@telus.net

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Per DTI-NCR # 2613 Series of 2006

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2006

OPINION

Regional wage boards decide wage-hike petitions in 30 days

THE NATIONAL WAGES AND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION (NWPC), an attached agency of the Department of Labor and Employment, would like to clarify some points in the news item "Wage boards blamed for workers' plight." (PDI, 5/4/06)

According to the report, the legislators blamed the regional wage boards for their failure to alleviate the plight of the workers in the last 16 years. The charges of some labor groups that the wage boards have become "pro-capitalist" are misplaced. The wage boards' tripartite composition ensures fair and adequate representation of the interests of labor, management and government. Besides, before issuing wage orders, the wage boards are required to conduct public hearings and deliberations.

Some quarters have accused the wage boards of being slow to act on wage petitions. On the contrary, records show that the wage boards take, on the average, 45 days from the first public hearing to issue wage orders—well within the 75-day period prescribed by law. In 2005, the re-

gional boards were able to issue their new wage orders within the 30-day deadline given by President Macapagal-Arroyo. Aside from that, of the 170 wage orders issued by the boards since their creation, 104, or 61 percent, were issued moto proprio, meaning the boards themselves initiated the action or inquiry to determine the need for a wage issuance, despite the absence of a petition. It may be noted that the P125 across-the-board wage hike that has been regularly filed before Congress since 1999 has yet to be approved.

May we also clarify the reports that the regional wage boards only granted token increases in wages and allowances, thus failing to mitigate the impact of rising prices. One of the criteria used by the boards in determining fair and reasonable wage adjustments is the increase in the prices of basic goods and services. In the National Capital Region, the increases granted are almost always higher than the amount needed to compensate for the rise in prices of goods and services. Since the creation of the regional boards, the minimum wage in the NCR has been

raised by a total amount of P261 per day for every non-agricultural worker.

In closing, may we say that we welcome the suggestion of our legislators to review the relevance of RA 6727 (the law that created the wage boards) and its implementing policies and rules to make it more responsive to the present requirements of the labor market.

For one, the rules on "supervening conditions" and exemption from compliance, which are more than 10 years old, may have to be reassessed and modified. Rest assured, however, that the NWPC and its regional boards will remain steadfast in providing a decent standard of living for our workers, while ensuring the continued viability of business, our primary employment generators.

—REBECCA J. CALZADO,
officer in charge,
National Wages and Productivity
Commission,
Department of Labor and Employment,
C. Licaros Building cor.
Muralla and Victoria Sts.,
Intramuros, Manila

Let debate begin

THE OPPOSITION SHOULD THINK ABOUT other things to do other than bring President Macapagal-Arroyo down. She is the President and there is nothing the opposition can do "legally" that can change that.

It is time for the opposition to put down the sword and start thinking about how to move the country forward. It could make better use of its time, brain power, influence and resources to bring out ideas to improve the state of the nation.

But the opposition has this paranoia that Ms Arroyo would steal democracy and perpetuate herself and her minions in power. Does it really think the Filipino people will buy that?

We did not take to the streets and remove our previous corrupt leaders just so another dictatorial leader could take over. The opposition must understand that those repressive days are over.

Our democracy is young but it is not in danger. If it were, Ms Arroyo would be the reason and the people would once again take to the streets and defend it with their lives.

If there is anything Ms Arroyo should fear, it is the people's wrath and the verdict of history if she curtails our freedoms.

So, to the opposition: Please focus on something else. Enough of this misplaced, counterproductive activism. If you really want to fight Ms Arroyo and make her irrelevant, fight her in the arena of ideas. Fight her by proposing economic and social policies that are better than hers. And then let the people decide which ideas are best for them.

Let the great policy and ideas debate to bring tangible hope begin!—E. PIO GOCO, Reston, Virginia (via e-mail)

President Arroyo should not resign but she should reform. The First Gentleman should avoid publicity by keeping a low profile. He is one of the major reasons the President is very unpopular. He might be a good person but there are so many negative issues hounding him.

I still think President Arroyo is better than what the opposition can offer. The peso is appreciating and our credit rating is improving.

The opposition should concentrate on constructive criticism and not waste its time thinking of ways to unseat the President. Its time will come. It must learn to be patient.

To our President: Please prove the opposition wrong.—Ronald Octavian C. Giongo (via e-mail)

We can get mad at everyone but that is not going to solve the country's problems. For all we know, we are the problem, the sector of the society that has brought us to where we are now.

Our population is over 85 million. Forty years ago, it was only 30 million. Nobody got hungry, there was so much to eat and we even gave aid in the form of rice to countries like Thailand. Now, food production in our country is getting less and less while the population is exploding.

Who is encouraging the people to go and multiply and does nothing to help solve the country's problem? The Catholic Church has to act to save this country.—Romeo Lagamo, Honolulu (via e-mail)

Charter change to avert political crisis in the Philippines—let's give it a shot. I believe it will work. We need to change a lot of things in our Constitution, as it was copied from the American Constitution and we are not America.

It is stated in the Constitution that any Filipino citizen can run for office regardless of background. But we need educated people in government, not people who happen to be famous. I propose that no one be allowed to run for office unless he or she has a college degree.—Rachelle Navarra (via e-mail)

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail reader.advocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

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SUPERLOTTO 6/49

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P8,000,000.00

Traders say outage cost Cebu P100M in losses

By Jhunnex Napallakan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—THE EIGHT-HOUR BLACKOUT that hit Cebu on Wednesday had caused an estimated P60 million to P100 million in losses to the business sector in Metro Cebu.

Carlos Co, chair of the Cebu Power Core Group (CPCG), said this huge loss due to the power outage made it imperative for the Cebu private and government sectors to come together to find other means of meeting their power needs.

Co said many establishments—from retail stores to manufacturing firms—suspended operations due to lack of generator sets or because their generator sets were only designed to handle power outages lasting an hour or more.

Eric Mendoza, Mandaue Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) president, said about 30 percent of the more than 8,000 business establishments in the city were forced to shut down because of the lack of power.

Robert Go, regional governor of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI-Central Visayas), said Cebu should not be dependent on power plants in Leyte or power coming from the Leyte-Cebu Interconnection Project (LCIUP).

Under the LCIUP or the Visayas grid, the islands of Leyte, Samar, Cebu, Bohol, Negros and Panay are interconnected via submarine cables, with geothermal power generated in Tongonan, Leyte as the main source of electricity.

Going on its own

Go said Cebu should have its own land-based power plants "so that we cannot be affected in future calamities of other areas like what had happened last Wednesday."

When a minor quake struck Leyte, the supply of power for Cebu automatically tripped off because Cebu relies on the LCIUP.

The emergency shutdown of the power plants in Barangay Tongonan in Ormoc City as a result of the tremor also caused blackouts in Leyte and Samar provinces (Eastern Visayas), Ne-

gros Oriental and Bohol (Central Visayas) and Negros Occidental and Panay Island provinces (Western Visayas). Only Siquijor was spared from the blackout as it was not connected to the Visayas grid.

"What's very important is that we should have land-based power plants so that we will not be dependent on the interconnection. Interconnection had actually solved the lack of power for Cebu, but we are too much dependent on interconnection," Go said.

Co, who is also the immediate vice president of the PCCI-Central Visayas, said a meeting would be called next week of members of the CPCG to discuss Cebu's power situation.

CPCG is composed of the Visayan Electric Company (Veco), National Transmission Corp. (Transco), National Power Corp. (Napocor), Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), Cebu Private Power Corp., Toledo Power Corp. and the business sector.

Dependence

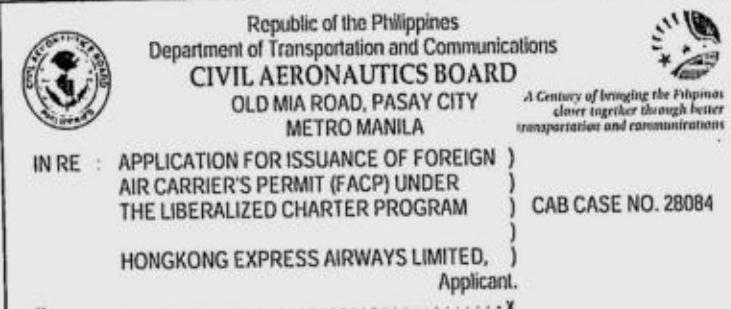
Cebu relies mainly on power supplied by the Leyte plants, using 360 megawatts of the 700 MW they produce.

Napocor's corporate staff specialist, Moses Red, said Cebu's daily power consumption reaches 450 MW, with the balance provided by Napocor's power plant in Naga town and independent power suppliers Cebu Private Power Corp. and Mirant Philippines.

Eduardo Eroy, Napocor vice president for thermal generation and Visayas head, said power supply to the grid was fully restored by 6:11 p.m. Wednesday, about eight hours after the quake hit Leyte Island. With a report by Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau

WHAT'S INSIDE

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NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 776, as amended, notice is hereby given that HONGKONG EXPRESS AIRWAYS LIMITED has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) an application for the issuance of Foreign Air Carrier's Permit under the Liberalized Charter Program. The initial hearing of the above entitled case will be held on 17 May 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at the Conference Room of the CAB, Old MIA Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing the applicant shall present its evidence.

The applicant is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation and that copies of this notice and the application itself be served upon Philippine Airlines, Inc., Cebu Pacific Air, Air Philippines Corporation, Asian Spirit and CR Airlines, Ltd., either by personal service or by registered mail with return card at least five (5) days before the scheduled hearing.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition on or before the date of the hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant, and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper under the premises. Failure on the part of any interested party to file its opposition on time and appear at the hearing shall be construed as a waiver of its right to be heard and the Civil Aeronautics Board shall proceed to hear and decide this application on its merit.

Let a copy of this application and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

21 April 2006
Pasay City, Philippines

MA. ELBEN S. MORO
Hearing Officer

cc: ATTY. ANTHONY T. ZAMORA
Counsel for Applicant Hongkong Express Airways Ltd.
ZAMORA MIRAFLOR BRAVO & ASSOCIATES
Suite 707 Cityland 10 Tower I
Geronimo Street cor. Ayala Avenue North
Salcedo Village, Makati City

(PDI - April 26, May 5 & 12, 2006)

Republika ng Pilipinas
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar Street, Zamboanga City

SECTION I, INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Zamboanga City Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee I (BAC I), invites Suppliers/Manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

LOT NO.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF ISSUANCE OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF PRE-BID CONFERENCE	DATE OF SUBMISSION/OPENING OF BIDS
1	993 BAGS OF BEST QUALITY RICE (50 KG./SACK) (50% 2", 3" & 4" D)	P 1,689,500.00	P 1,000.00	May 8-16, 2006	May 18, 2006	May 30, 2006
2	Water Meters sizes: ½", 2", 3" & 4" D	1,010,000.00	1,000.00	May 8-16, 2006	May 18, 2006	May 30, 2006
3	Assorted Brass Fittings	494,500.00	500.00	May 15-19, 2006	May 23, 2006	June 6, 2006
4	Genset 55KVA	1,300,000.00	1,000.00	May 15-19, 2006	May 23, 2006	June 6, 2006
5	Assorted PVC Pipes & Fittings	387,185.00	500.00	May 15-19, 2006	May 23, 2006	June 6, 2006

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules & Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (RA. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, which is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (RA. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process of the Eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bid with lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall be advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall be then awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below during office hours (8:00 - 5:00pm).

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00 pm, May 30, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's and Manager's Check and in the following amount: Lot 1: P14,895.00, Lot 2: 10,100.00, Lot 3: P 4,945.00 & Lot 4: P 13,000.00 & Lot 5: P3,871.85. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid Opening shall be on May 30, 2006 at the 2nd Floor, ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT Main Office Building, Pilar St., Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representative/s who choose to attend at the address below.

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time or prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Mr. Noel M. Kawaguchi
Pilar St., Zamboanga City 7000
Telephone No. (062) 991-1556
Email:
(PDI - May 12, 2006)

(Sgd.) ARNULFO A. ALFONSO
BAC I Chairman

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
MACTAN ECONOMIC ZONE I

Lapu-lapu City
Tel. Nos. 3400590, 3400594, 3400591; Telefax No. 3402949
Website: www.peza.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, through its MEZ Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract: Proposed Asphalt Overlay Project of MEZ-Phase I
Location: MEZ I, Lapu-lapu City
Brief Description: Supply of Labor, Materials, Equipment and Supervision for Proposed Asphalt Overlay Project of MEZ-Phase II

Approved Budget for the Contract: P13,457,444.09
Contract Duration: 30 calendar days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed similar contract with a value at least 50% of the ABC within the last three years, and have key personnel and own equipment listed below available for the prosecution of the contract:

- Asphalt Batching Plant (production 50 M.T. per hr.)
- Road Roller
- Asphalt Paver
- Pneumatic Roller
- Asphalt Distributor
- Dump Trucks

The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) with application for eligibility May 12-23, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility forms May 15-24, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements Deadline May 25, 2006 5:00 p.m.
4. Notice of Result of Eligibility Check June 5, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents June 6-9, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference June 13, 2006 2:00 p.m.
7. Receipt & Opening of Bids June 29, 2006 2:00 p.m.

Eligibility Forms are available at MEZ BAC Secretariat, 2/F PEZA Administration Bldg., MEZ I, Lapu-lapu City upon submission of LOI, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 to the PEZA Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to BAC at the stated address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check at the same address.

The Bidding Documents may be issued only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 to the PEZA Cashier.

The pre-bid conference and the opening of bids will be conducted at the Conference Room, 2/F PEZA Administration Bldg., Mactan Economic Zone I, Lapu-lapu City.

The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidders or Bidders.

Approved by
(Sgd.) BELENA B. SUELLO
MEZ BAC Chairperson

Name of the Procuring Entity: Local Government Unit of Claveria
Project Reference Number: Name of Project: Claveria WAHIG System
Location of Project: Claveria, Mis. Or.

Standard Form Number: SF-CONS-04
Revised on: 9 May 04
Standard Form Title: INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Local Government Unit of Claveria through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites consultants to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and shortlisted, to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project: Claveria WAHIG System
Brief Description: The proposed Claveria Wahig System will provide sufficient, safe and potable level III Water Supply System to 12 priority barangays and bulk supply of water at Barangay Poblacion. The project's major components include the development of intake structures, treatment facilities, a control room with related structures, installation of 44.45 km transmission facilities, installation of 43.53 distribution facilities, construction of 12 storage facilities, provision on metered connections, fire hydrants, valves fitting and other related appurtenances.

Approved Budget For the Contract: 4 Million
Source of Funding: 20% LDF/Gen. Fund
Contract Duration: Detailed Engineering Design = 60 days
Construction Supervision = until the completion of project

The list of minimum requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Shortlisting of eligible consultants will be done on the following criteria: experience of the consultant relative to proposed project, qualifications of personnel and current workload. Not more than five (5) eligible bidders shall make up the short-list. The bid evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be Quality Based Evaluation with the following consideration and its corresponding weight percentage, to wit:

- a. Quality of personnel 30%
- b. Experience and capability 45%
- c. Plan of approach and Methodology 25%

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, performance Security, Pre-Bidding conference(s), Evaluation of bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

Activities Schedule

1. Deadline for submission of letter of intent and application for Eligibility	May 26, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	May 26 - June 2
3. Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility Requirements	June 2
4. Eligibility Checking	June 5
5. Results of Eligibility Check</td	

Govs want STL operations stopped, reviewed

Mayors' authority to allow lottery questioned

BACOLOD CITY—THE COUNTRY'S GOVERNORS want the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to suspend the implementation of Small Town Lottery (STL) after they found that mayors could bypass provincial governments in allowing STL operations.

The League of Provinces of the Philippines questioned the PCSO's draft rules and regulations which provide that the provincial board's approval is no longer required if the league of municipal mayors allow STL in their towns.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon said the league believes this violates the Local Government Code of 1991 outlining the powers, duties and functions of the provincial government.

He said the governors were referring to a rule adopted by the PCSO that provides that the endorsement of the League of Municipalities, even without a Sangguniang Panlalawigan resolution, is sufficient to grant a franchise to STL operators.

Board powers

The Local Government Code requires the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to review ordinances and resolutions of municipal legislative boards. The league said this provision makes it necessary for STL operators to get the approval of provincial boards.

The league said many provinces are opposed to the operation of STL but the PCSO has begun the pilot testing of STL in some provinces without securing the permission of governors or provincial boards.

In Negros Occidental, the provincial board opposed STL but its league of mayors endorsed the game.

Marañon said he believed that a dialogue between the mayors and the board members is needed.

He said he hasn't decided yet whether to accept or reject STL.

"Whenever I decide it will be for the greater good of the greater number," he said.

STL was set up by the PCSO as an alternative to the illegal numbers game, popularly known as "jueteng" in Luzon and "masiao" or

daily double in the Visayas and Mindanao.

In Lucena City, the PCSO office asked all its sales agents and bet collectors to always wear identification cards to show policemen they were PCSO employees and not jueteng workers.

Leti Renomeron, PCSO-Quezon branch manager, made the appeal to agents and collectors after a Camp Crame-based anti-illegal gambling police unit raided a local STL station in Tiaong town on Tuesday and arrested 29 sales supervisors.

"It was not an illegal gambling operation. The police made the wrong raid and false arrests," she said.

According to Senior Insp. Nathaniel Villegas, head of the arresting team from the Anti-Illegal Gambling Special Operation Task Force, most of the suspects did not have IDs issued by the PCSO.

"I must admit, most of the STL collectors are bull-headed. We've already asked them so many times to always wear their IDs but they keep on ignoring us," Renomeron said.

Impressions

Senior Supt. Victorio Caragan Jr., Quezon police chief, said the place that was raided belonged to a compound owned by Tiaong Mayor Raul Umali. Umali has said it belonged to his mother who gets P300 in rent from STL.

Caragan said jueteng has stopped in the province and reports of jueteng making a comeback could be caused by the operations of STL.

Church leaders said STL is being used as a front for jueteng.

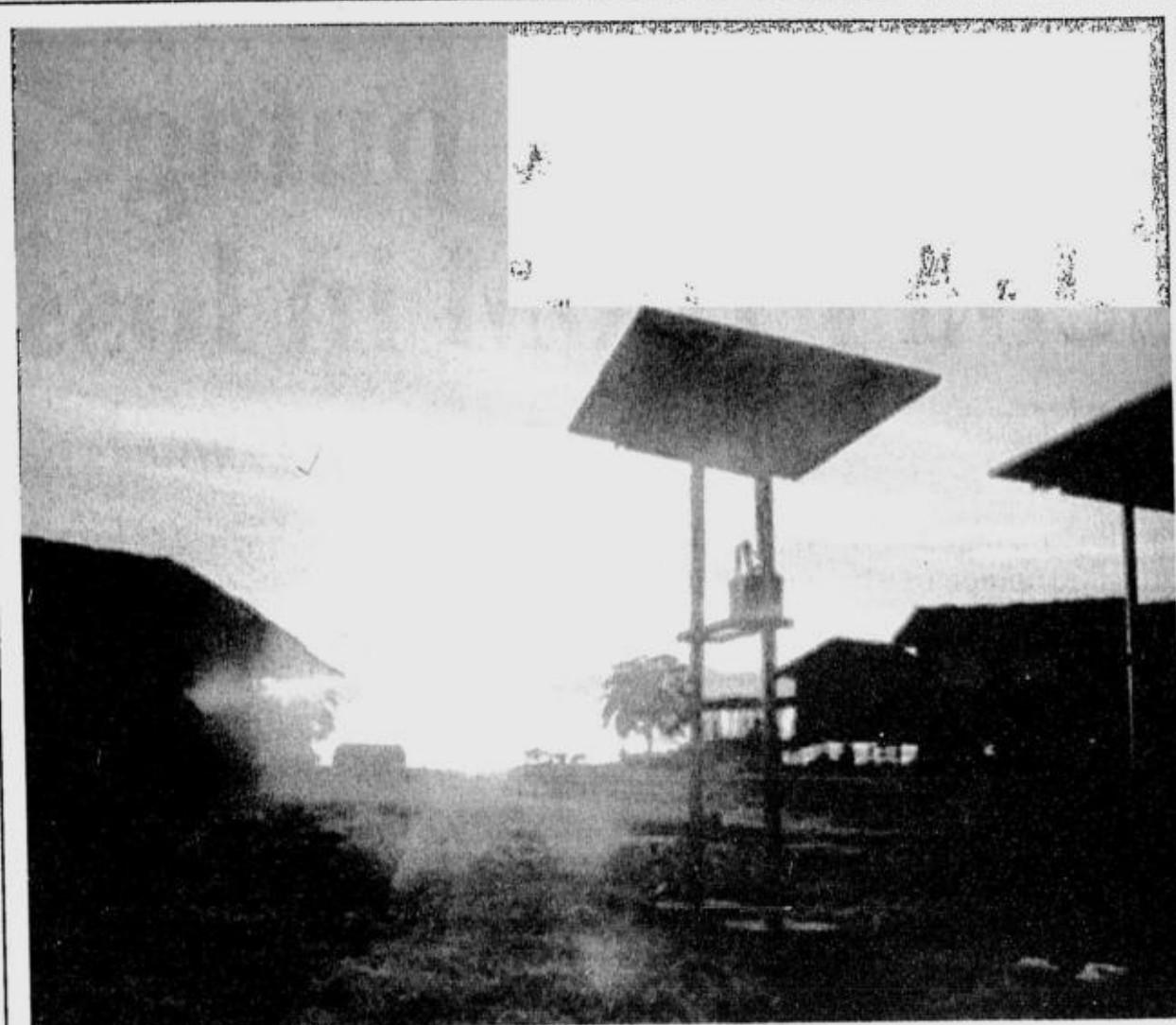
"Naturally, the impression would be that those (arrested) persons were jueteng collectors... They simply forgot to pin their identification cards," he said.

Quezon Board Member Isaias Ubana II assailed the police team that raided the STL station in Tiaong.

He said STL provides employment to people in Tiaong.

"The poor fellows that they arrested were just trying to earn a living..." said Ubana. Carla P.

Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau and Delfin T. Malari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



SUN BLESSED

Solar photovoltaic systems stand proudly in a village in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi that was a recipient of solar energy systems from the Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy (Amore). Alternative energy systems are bringing electricity to more and more remote areas in the country.

PHOTO FROM AMORE

2 welders suffer burns as explosion rocks ship awaiting load of diesel

BALANGA CITY—Two workers were hurt yesterday in an explosion that rocked an oil tanker while it was docked near an oil refinery in Limay, Bataan, Coast Guard officials said.

Jaime Rebuso, 43, and Pedrito Tanayday, 46, were treated for second degree burns at the Isaac and Catalina Medical Center here. Doctors said they were in stable condition.

Rebuso and Tanayday, both pipe fitters, were doing welding work on the tanker MT Daniella Trinidad docked near the Petron refinery port in Limay when the explosion occurred at about 8 a.m. The cause of the explosion was not immediately known.

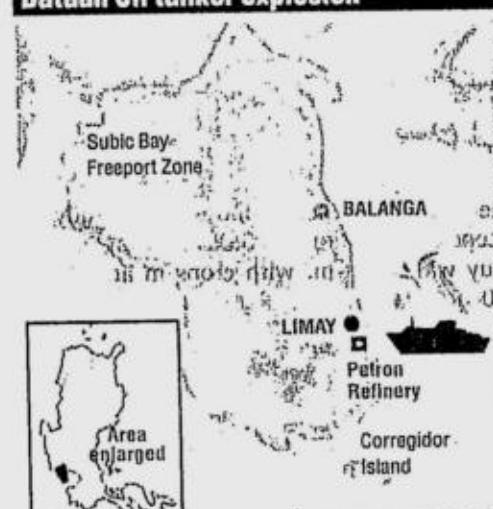
The tanker was waiting for its turn to be loaded with diesel from the refinery, Coast Guard officials said.

It took Coast Guard personnel and fire fighters about an hour to put out fire that followed the explosion.

Coast Guard personnel were sent to the area for search and rescue operations.

The Coast Guard quoted investigators as saying the explosion occurred in tank No. 5 of the ship,

Bataan Oil tanker explosion



INQGRAPHICS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

owned by Shogun Shipping Inc., where the workers were welding. The tank was empty, said the Coast Guard.

Lt. Commander Joseph Coyne, Coast Guard spokesman, said there were no signs of a terror attack but an investigation was being conducted.

The ship had a gross tonnage of more than 2,000 tons.

"We heard the explosion and the tugboats here immediately went there. We do not know the exact cause of the explosion," Eric Losin, a terminal officer, was quoted by Reuters as saying. Greg Refracion, PDI Central Luzon Desk and Leila Salaverria in Manila with Reuters

Bishop asks mayors not to approve STL

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—BISHOP Vicente Navarra of the Diocese of Bacolod yesterday appealed to mayors of Negros Occidental not to allow the operation of Small Town Lottery (STL) in their towns and cities.

"I am appealing to the conscience of our mayors because gambling will only aggravate poverty," the bishop said.

The bishop made this appeal after the league of municipal mayors in the province passed a resolution last week inviting the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) to operate STL in the 19 towns of Negros Occidental.

Navarra, however, warned that gambling would only foment laziness and encourage people to depend on luck. Gambling, he added, will also affect families.

On the other hand, the prelate commended the Negros Occidental Provincial Board for opposing STL.

The League of Municipalities of the Philippines (CMP)-Negros

Occidental chapter, under Resolution No. 1 it passed on May 5, said it endorsed STL "after a thorough consideration of the benefits and advantages it could bring to the general populace."

It added that STL would not only provide much-needed income for residents but also revenue to the host local government unit (LGU).

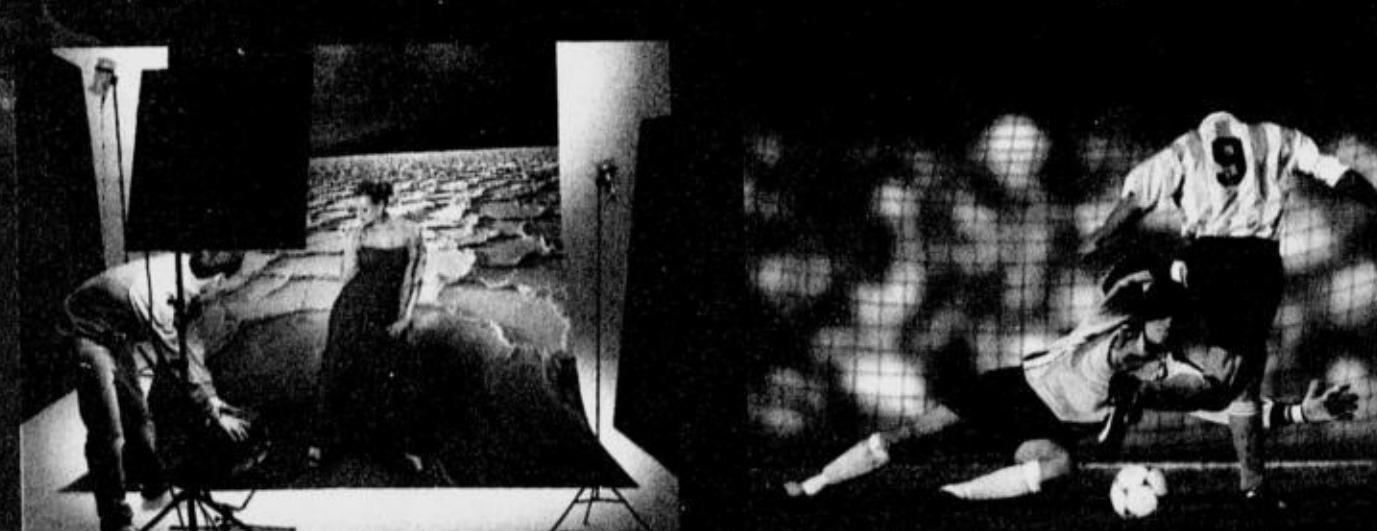
The operation of the STL ensures equitable income, the resolution further said.

"The earlier STL is implemented the better it will be for the countless number of our people who are in dire need of a legal means to derive gainful income," the resolution said.

A copy of the resolution, signed by Manapla Mayor Manuel Escalante III, the CMP-Negros Occidental president, and La Castellana Mayor Enrico Elumba, the secretary general, was submitted Friday to Gov. Joseph Marañon.

Marañon has yet to make a stand on STL, saying he would abide by the position to be taken by the League of Provinces on the matter.

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**MACHO**

A carabao that was tagged "PinakaMacho" draws the attention of visitors at the booth of San Agustin town in Ilagan, Isabela during the celebration of the province's 150th founding anniversary.

Bugs keep Iloilo DA execs on alert

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILLOILO CITY—AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS said rice black bugs continued to infest plantations in Iloilo.

Agriculture regional executive director Jindra Linda Demeterio said the infestation had been "contained" but said it was not yet over.

She said farmers should remain vigilant.

The bug (*Scotinophara coarctata*), also known as the Malaysian black bug, attacks rice stems and yam. It kills plants by infesting the base of stems and draining them of sap, causing the plants to weaken. The stalks eventually wither and die.

Since the infestation was detected in March, the bugs have infested 1,410 hectares of farms, according to the Department of Agriculture's Regional Crop Protection Center.

The infestation has brought losses to 640 farmers in the northern Iloilo towns of Ajuy, Concepcion, San Dionisio, Sara and Dingle.

Ajuy was worst-hit with crops in at least 1,000 hectares of farms in eight barangays destroyed.

The DA was still determining the cost of damage to crops and the impact on rice production in the province, the country's second biggest rice producer. Iloilo's total production last year was 690,269 metric tons.

The DA and the provincial government have formed a multi-agency task force to stop the infestation.

Avoid culture shock, OFWs told

BAGUIO CITY Sometimes, what seems to be a trivial difference over food preferences and diet could spell trouble between an employer and an overseas Filipino worker.

That's why Filipinos who are planning to work abroad should take the predeparture orientation seminar (PDOS) seriously to understand other cultures and to avoid "culture shock," according to officials of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration here.

Delfina Camarillo, chief of the POEA Cordillera, said one of the issues confronting the OFWs was food deprivation. This could be perceived as a violation of one's basic rights but is actually a problem of communication between the employer and the employee, she said.

"Sometimes, our OFWs are too shy to ask their employers for a meal of their choice because they think their employers would get mad. There's a communication gap, but they should be open to their employers," she said.

This has become an issue because some foreign employers eat light meals compared to Filipinos who eat heavier meals, she said.

Camarillo said Filipinos, whose staple is rice, were finding it hard adjusting to a lighter diet served at their work sites.

"That is why those who are planning to work abroad should take the PDOS seriously to avoid encountering culture shock. There are OFWs who attend the PDOS just to comply with requirements. They should absorb what they are being taught in the seminar," she said in a forum here on Wednesday.

Aside from food preferences, the OFWs should also know the cultural norms of people in other countries to avoid conflicts, Camarillo said. In Saudi Arabia, for example, a Catholic is not allowed to carry a rosary or Bible in public.

Camarillo said the PDOS was one of the measures that could shield a jobseeker from abuses. The seminar, she said, could also make the jobseeker aware of his or her rights in foreign countries. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—STATE PROSECUTORS found probable cause to charge Mayor Jaime Ylarde of Dingalan, Aurora with murder for the slaying of a publisher last year.

The 11-page resolution by Prosecutors Cielito Lindo Luyun, Misael Ladaga and Jose Pedro Navera was received by the family of Starline Times Recorder publisher Philip Agustin on the first anniversary of his death on Wednesday.

No bail was recommended for Ylarde, a former policeman.

In a phone interview, Navera said the prosecution panel amended the Jan. 26, 2006 information to include Ylarde in the charges.

Navera, citing a new order by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, said a prosecutor in Aurora would assume the case and file the charges at the Regional Trial Court Branch 66, in Baler, Aurora. The arrest warrant would come from the local court.

Navera said affidavits by witnesses and the ex-traditional confession by suspect-turned-witness Reynaldo Morete showed probable cause to include Ylarde in the charges. Morete claimed that the mayor ordered the killing of Agustin.

Agustin, 54, was gunned down after he delivered in Dingalan copies of the special edition of his news weekly. The paper featured his column and several stories about the mayor's alleged misuse of public and private funds for relief and rehabilitation programs for landslide victims.

The resolution came two months after Gonzalez created a new panel to review the case.

Relatives and supporters of Agustin contested an earlier recommendation by prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco to exclude Ylarde from the murder charges.

Ylarde did not answer calls and text messages from the INQUIRER. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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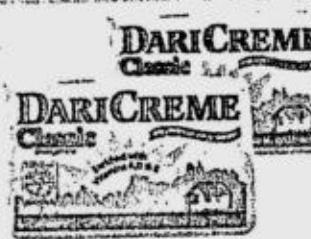


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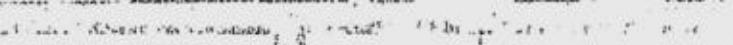


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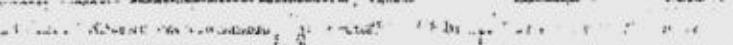


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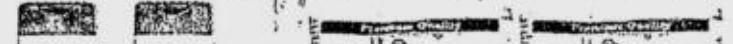
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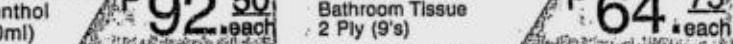
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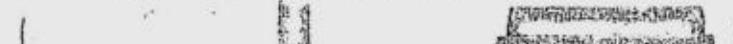
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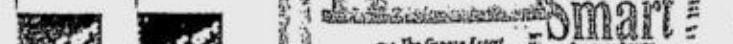
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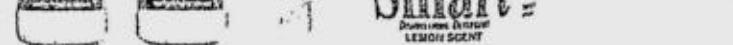
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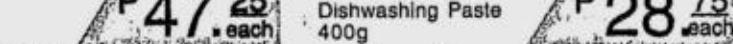
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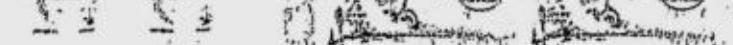
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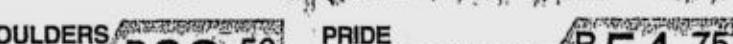
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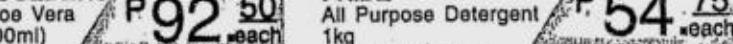
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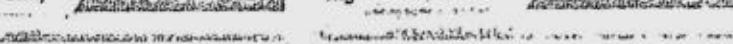
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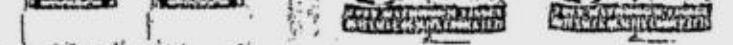
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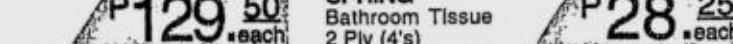
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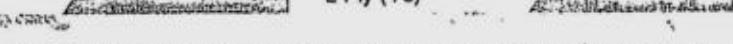
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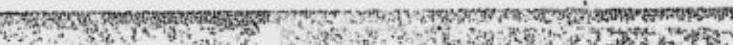
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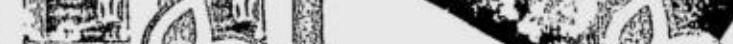
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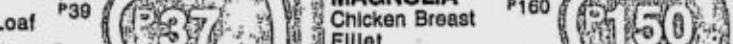
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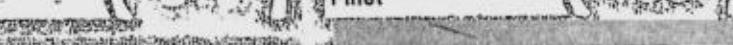
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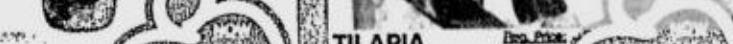
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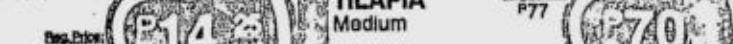
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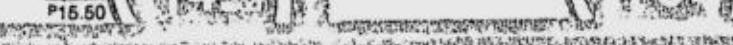
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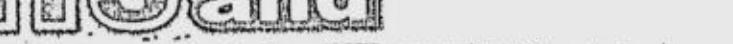
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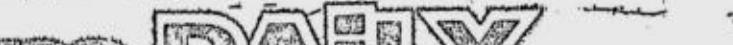
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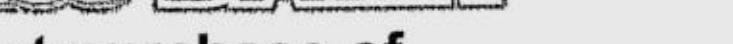
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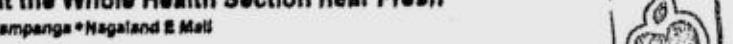
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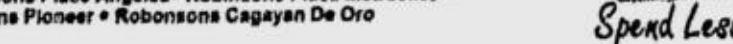
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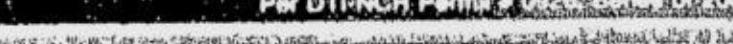
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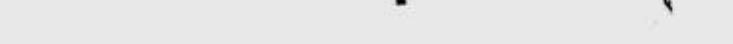
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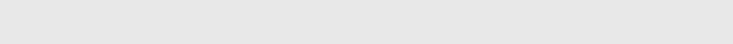
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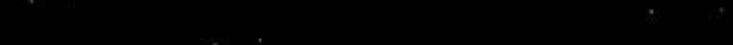
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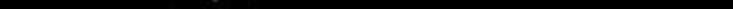
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FRIDAY,
MAY 12, 2006

Across the NATION

A21

Sta. Rosa mayor unscathed as man shoots his vehicle

STA. ROSA CITY—MAYOR JOSE B. Catindig Jr. survived an assassination attempt Wednesday, in an attack that took place exactly a year after his predecessor was murdered.

Catindig was on his way to a meeting of the local Rotary Club in San Lorenzo Village in his Isuzu Crosswind (XRA 119) when a man with a pistol shot at the window of his vehicle on a narrow road in Barangay Dita at about 9:40 p.m.

The attack happened a year after then Mayor Leon Arcillas was gunned down by still unidentified assailants on May 10, 2005.

Then Vice Mayor Catindig succeeded Arcillas.

Catindig was unhurt in the ambush, but one of his four close-in security aides was wounded.

"It was a good thing I was able to hang my bulletproof vest on the car window. The bullet meant for me pierced the vest," Catindig told the INQUIRER.

Five other security aides of the mayor ran after the gunman, who

fled on a motorcycle with another unidentified man.

They failed to catch up with the attackers who were seen headed for Cabuyao town.

Supt. Florendo Saligao, city police chief, said the gunman apparently knew that Catindig was scheduled to attend a meeting in the area and had waited for his convoy.

A few hours earlier, thousands of residents, relatives and followers of Arcillas joined a motorcade and Mass to honor him. Arcillas was regarded as the father of the modern Sta. Rosa, a former farming town 50 km from Manila.

Led by Vice Mayor Arlene Arcillas-Nazareno, the daughter of the murdered mayor, the group laid flowers and lit candles on the second floor of City Hall, where Arcillas was shot dead.

Forty days after the killing, Councilor Artemio Gomez, a known right-hand man of the late mayor, was shot and killed in front of his house.

Just two months ago, Jensen

Cristobal, the city information officer and a close aide of Catindig, was gunned down in Makati City.

Police, though, ruled out politics in the death of Cristobal.

Superintendent Saligao said Catindig and other members of his family were brought to an undisclosed place for protection.

Police also sent more bodyguards for the mayor.

The assassination attempt was the fourth attack against ranking Sta. Rosa City officials in just a year.

Before the death of Arcillas, community leader Mely Carvajal, who led a group that exposed the alleged irregularities of his administration, was killed in front of her house.

Reports said Carvajal's death might be related to the killing of Arcillas, which was blamed by police on the communist New People's Army (NPA).

The NPA has denied having a hand in the murder. Marlon Ramos and Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Court decides to revive Golden Buddha case

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE GOLDEN BUDDHA controversy is expected to start a new chapter after a judge here decided to revive the hearing of a civil case involving a bronze plated statuette claimed to be a replica of the genuine Buddha.

The supposed connection of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos' family to the Golden Buddha will take center-stage as Regional Trial Court Judge Fernando Vil Pamintuan issued an order on Tuesday directing former first lady Imelda Marcos and her daughter, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, to appear before the court on June 29.

Marcos was tagged as the mastermind behind the seizure of the Golden Buddha from its finder, Rogelio Roxas, a locksmith-turned-treasure hunter, on April 5, 1971, in his house here.

The Marcoses have repeatedly denied the charge.

Also to be issued subpoenas are Roxas' sons, Henry and Gervic; brother Jose; Albert Umali, president of the Treasure Hunters Association of the Philippines (Thapi); and the Office of the Solicitor General.

"The case has not been actually terminated. The hearing aims to make a final determination of the ownership of the Golden Buddha," Pamintuan told the INQUIRER on Wednesday.

"The statuette deserves a final destination," he said, referring to the statuette that had been in the court's



THE BUDDHA statuette, around which revolve legends and myths on treasure hunting and the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, sits in a Baguio courtroom.

DELMAR CARIÑO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

in this issue, I thought it would be best for her to appear during the hearing," Pamintuan said.

Imee Marcos is being summoned as an heir of her father, he said.

Asked if he would make a ruling as to whether the Buddha was a replica of the original Golden Buddha allegedly seized by Marcos, Pamintuan said: "No. As a judge I will not declare anything on that issue. We need evidence and law to do that."

The June 29 hearing will reopen the legal clashes between Umali and the OSG.

Umali said he should take home the statuette in the court's custody since Rogelio Roxas signed an agreement waiving his rights over the Golden Buddha in his favor.

The OSG wanted to keep the statuette since it could be part of the Marcoses' illegally acquired wealth.

Pamintuan will resume hearings on Civil Case No. 3383 filed by Jose Roxas on April 20, 1995, at the RTC Branch 3, which Pamintuan now presides.

Jose, 71, petitioned the court to release to him the statuette as a memento of his brother Rogelio's treasure hunting activities.

He testified before then Judge Romeo Brawner that his brother did not find a Golden Buddha.

The judge admitted that Mrs. Marcos and her daughter had not officially entered their appearance as parties interested in the case.

"I hope that after the hearing, the Buddha statuette will be finally given to its rightful owner," he said.

The judge admitted that Mrs. Marcos and her daughter had not officially entered their appearance as parties interested in the case.

Judge Antonio Reyes, who was assigned to handle the case when Branch 3 was vacated, decided on May 30, 1996 that no Golden Buddha existed and that the statuette in court was the one found by Rogelio.

custody for 35 years.

On May 9, Pamintuan ordered the transfer of the statuette from the court's evidence room to his courtroom.

"I hope that after the hearing, the Buddha statuette will be finally given to its rightful owner," he said.

The judge admitted that Mrs. Marcos and her daughter had not officially entered their appearance as parties interested in the case.

"But the former first lady came to the court before to see the Buddha and since her family is being dragged



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
DOST Administrative Order No. 002
Series of 2006

SUBJECT: Guidelines in the Recovery of Costs of Products and Services of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) Particularly in the Flight Folder Issuance and the Fee Structure Thereof

WHEREAS, the Republic of the Philippines is a signatory to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, ICAO Document No. 7300, otherwise known as the Chicago Convention, to further enhance agreement on certain principles and arrangements in order that international civil aviation may be developed in a safe and orderly manner and that international air transport services may be established on the basis of equality of opportunity and operated soundly and economically;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a Member country of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and a Contracting State of the Convention on International Civil Aviation which designated the PAGASA as the Designated Meteorological Authority (DMA) of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines primarily taking charge to arrange for the provision of meteorological services for international air navigation on its behalf;

WHEREAS, various principles and methodologies are laid out in the ICAO and WMO guidance materials on cost recovery, namely: Manual on Air Navigation Service Economics (ICAO Doc. 9161), ICAO's Policies on Charges for Airports and Air Navigation Services (ICAO Doc. 9082) and WMO Guide on Aeronautical Meteorological Services Cost Recovery (WMO No. 904);

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order No. 159, it is the goal of the government: (1) to promote full recovery of cost of services to free other government revenues for priority projects; and (2) to ensure equitable distribution of the burden of cost recovery by having the direct recipients of government services account for the costs;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 54, Chapter 12, Book IV of Executive Order No. 292 (Administrative Code of 1987), heads of bureaus, offices or agencies, may, upon approval of the department head, charge and collect the cost of the services rendered by the bureau, office or agency concerned;

WHEREFORE, pursuant to the provisions of the issuances, the following rules and regulations for the implementation of collection of fees and charges for PAGASA products and services are hereby promulgated.

PART I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Title. These guidelines shall be known and cited as the PAGASA Flight Folder Issuance Fee Structure.

Section 2. Definition of terms and acronyms. - Unless defined otherwise, the following terms and acronyms shall refer to the definitions provided hereunder:

- a. "PAGASA" refers to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration. A service institute of the Department of Science and Technology mandated to undertake, *inter alia*, observation, collection, assessment and processing of atmospheric and allied data for the benefit of agriculture, commerce and industry.
- b. "AMSO" refers to the Aeronomical Meteorological Service Office (or AeroMeteorological Service Office). An organic unit of the Weather Forecasting Section-Weather Branch mandated by law to issue Flight Documentation Folders to aeronautical users.
- c. "WMO" refers to the World Meteorological Organization. A specialized agency of the United Nations purposefully established to further the application of meteorology to aviation, shipping, water resources management, agriculture and other human activities, among others.
- d. "ICAO" refers to the International Civil Aviation Organization. A specialized agency of the United Nations established to standardize, and establish International Standards, Recommended Practices and Procedures covering the technical field of aviation: licensing of personnel, rules of the air, aeronautical meteorology, and aeronautical charts, among others.
- e. "DMA" refers to the Designated Meteorological Authority. The authority providing or arranging for the provision of meteorological service for international air navigation on behalf of a Member country. DMA is functionally referred to as "Service Provider".
- f. "FOLDER" refers to the Flight Documentation Folder. It consists of written or printed documents, including charts or forms containing meteorological information for a flight.
- g. "USER" refers to an entity or individual that utilizes a service furnished by the "Service Provider".
- h. "FEES" refers to all charges and costs assessed against the direct recipients of specialized products and services provided by PAGASA in the exercise of its functions.
- i. "AerIS" refers to AeroMeteorological Information System which is a sub-system of the WAIS-Meteorological Laboratory.
- j. "WAIS-AerIS" refers to PAGASA's aeronautical meteorological information system developed through WAIS-MetLab.
- k. "SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR" refers to one who, as a primary job function, manages computer and network systems on behalf of another, such as an employer or client.
- l. "FL" refers to flight level.
- m. "hPa" refers to hecto-Pascal. A unit of measurement of atmospheric pressure.
- n. "ETOPS" refers to Extended Range Operation with two engine airplanes.
- o. "AERODROME" refers to a defined area on land, ice, or water (including any buildings, installations or equipment) intended to be used either wholly or partially for the arrival, departure, movement, or servicing of aircraft.
- p. "ALTERNATE AERODROME" An aerodrome specified in the flight plan to which a flight may proceed when it becomes inadvisable to land at the aerodrome of intended landing.
- q. "EN-ROUTE ALTERNATE AERODROME" refers to an aerodrome at which an aircraft would be able to land after experiencing an abnormal or emergency condition while en route.
- r. "AERODROME OF DESTINATION" refers to an aerodrome at which an aircraft is designated to land.
- s. "SARPs" refers to standards and recommended practices employed by both the ICAO and WMO.
- t. "PROGNOSTIC UPPER-AIR CHARTS" refers to prognosticated ICAO standard isobaric upper-level charts composed mainly of forecast air-temperature, wind direction and speed usually with validity period of six (6) to thirty six (36) hours.
- u. "SIGNIFICANT WEATHER CHARTS" refers to prognosticated weather charts for a designated level usually at FL250-630. It may contain forecasts of: cloud areas with indication of its tops; jet streams at different levels; volcanic activity/ash extent and location; frontal systems and its direction and speed and other meteorological information which may affect the safety of aircraft operations.
- v. "WAIS" refers to the World Area Forecast System developed by ICAO and WMO to improve the quality and consistency of en-route guidance provided for international aircraft operations.
- w. "TAFOR" refers to the complete description of the meteorological elements expected at and over the aerodrome throughout the whole of the forecast period. It could be in a 9 or 24-hour validity period, including any changes considered to the significant to aircraft operations. It is prepared by trained staff (aeronautical meteorological forecaster), who, using the latest available regulations, ensure that internationally agreed practices are followed. This is one of the basic aeronautical meteorological information needed in flight planning for safety of the conduct of international or national air navigation.
- x. "METAR" refers to the name code for an aviation routine weather report. In the Philippines, it is issued hourly. This type of report is one of the basic considerations in the formulation of a TAFOR.
- y. "SPECI" refers to the name of the code for an aviation special weather report. A SPECI can be issued at any time when certain criteria are met. (see Appendix A). This type of report is also one of the basic considerations in the formulation of a TAFOR.
- z. "Service Provider" refers to PAGASA, as an entity that provides meteorological information to various users or customers.
- aa. "Meteorological Information" refers to meteorological report, analysis, forecast, and any other statement relating to existing or expected meteorological conditions.

Section 3. Electronic Flight Folder Acquisition. Automated Flight Folder issuances shall be in place and shall be maintained by the PAGASA AerIS Systems Administrator utilizing its FTP service. Authorized Users shall be given a username and password to gain access to the necessary Folder.

Section 4. Folder Preparation and Formulation. The Folder shall be prepared and formulated in advance by the AMSO throughout the 24-hour period.

Section 5. Folder Availability. The designated Forecaster shall post the latest Folder at the designated PAGASA website two (2) to three (3) hours prior to the intended time of departure.

Section 6. Flight Schedule; contents. The User shall be responsible for the submission of the frequency of Folder issuance (daily, weekly or monthly) within a period of seven (7) working days prior to the effectiveness of the schedule. The flight schedule shall contain the (a) time of departure; (b) aerodrome of departure; (c) alternate aerodrome (including take-off alternate, en-route alternate, ETOPS en-route alternate); and (d) aerodrome of destination.

Section 7. Unscheduled, Re-scheduled and Cancelled Flights. Requests for flight Folder outside the submitted schedule or for re-scheduled flights must be made at least twelve (12) hours before the intended time of departure.

Section 8. Folder Structure. The general structure of a flight documentation folder must be made in accordance with the standard format prescribed in the WMO and ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices. It is categorized into International Flight Folder; and Domestic Flight Folder.

International Flight Folder shall be composed of the following items:

- a. Multi-level prognostic upper-air charts, i.e. FL300 and FL390, with validity period of twenty four (24) hours or more;
- b. Significant Weather Chart, i.e. FL250 - 630, with a validity period of twelve (12) hours;
- c. Compiled list of Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAFOR) of each of aerodrome of departure, destination, alternate, en-route alternate, take-off alternative, ETOPS en-route alternate and destination alternate.

Domestic Flight Folder shall be composed of the following items:

- a. Multi-level prognostic upper-air charts or a choice of two of the following:
 - i. Surface (10 meter level);
 - ii. 1000 hPa level; 850 hPa level; and
 - iii. 700 hPa level
- b. Significant Weather Charts valid up to twelve (12) hours of the following levels:
 - i. Medium level 700 hPa to 400 hPa or FL100 to FL250;
 - ii. Low-level - Surface to 700 hPa or SFC-FL100;
 - iii. Compiled list of Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAFOR) of each of aerodrome of departure, destination, alternate, en-route alternate, take off alternate.

PART II FEES

Section 1. Schedule of Fees. The fees prescribed in this Section are applicable to the products and/or services and materials furnished by the AMSO.

Reference Code	Product/Service Type	Cost
IFF	Flight Documentation Folder for International Flights	US\$ 15.00
DFF	Domestic Folder for Domestic Flights (Commercial)	P100.00

Section 2. Billing. The Accounting Section shall bill the User on a monthly basis. The statement of Account shall be issued by the PAGASA AerIS system administrator containing, among others, the description of products and services, corresponding cost computed based on the prevailing exchange rate at the time of rendition of service.

Section 3. Delinquent payment; surcharge. Payments made after fifteen (15) days from bill date shall be assessed a surcharge of one percent (1%) of the total amount due.

Section 4. Folder access suspension. Users are entitled to thirty (30) days grace period within which to settle their accounts. Beyond which their access to the flight folder shall be suspended. The suspension will be lifted three (3) days after the User has satisfactorily settled in full his accountabilities which includes his unpaid account plus the corresponding surcharge.

Section 5. Fees Collected. The fees collected by PAGASA from the Users pursuant to this Department Order shall be deposited to the National Treasury.

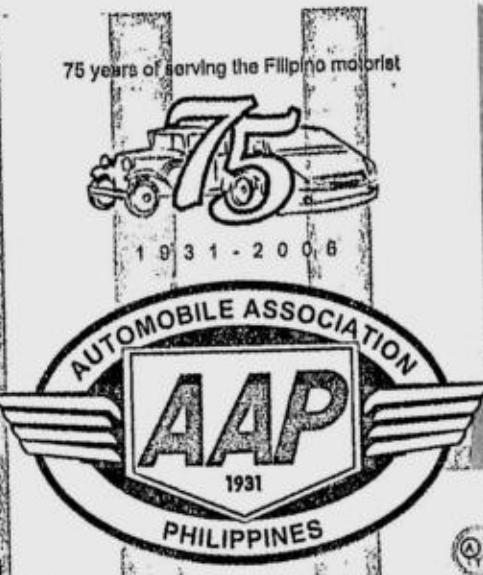
PART III MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 1. Periodic Review of Fees. The PAGASA Flight Folder fee structure shall be reviewed whenever necessary provided that the rates of fees herein provided may be increased only once a year, unless otherwise required by law, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuance.

Section 2. Revision of Fees. Notice of revision of fees shall be given to users or their duly authorized representatives at least four (4) months prior to the intended revision. During the said period, users may submit their views and/or comment to the service provider.

Section 3. User Consultation. Consultation with

Doubts raised over population drop report



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funds for it.

"That was your interpretation, but you stated it as a matter of fact," Remulla told the INQUIRER. "It is highly unbelievable that the population growth rate would slow down from 2.36 percent to 1.94 percent without a government population program in place."

Ernesto Pernia, an economics professor at the University of the Philippines, said he doubted the validity of the NSCB projection because it did not jibe with physical observations. He described the government's efforts to control population as "practically nil."

But Pernia said that if the government's projection was correct, the Philippine economy would still be unable to sustain it.

He said the annual population growth should slow down to as low as 1.6 percent for the economy to sustain its entire population.

6-year-old data
Remulla cautioned government officials against making major policy decisions on population and the economy based on projections garnered from "6-year-old data" and "assumptions" that might or might not have occurred.

But Lina Castro, director for the NSCB social statistics office, said the 1.95-percent population growth rate was a projection for the five-year period starting 2005.

She clarified that it was not the actual population growth slowdown last year, as earlier reported.

Castro also said the projected slowdown was based on actual historical trends on declining fertility rate and increasing contraception use among Filipino women.

"[The government has] a population-management program. There is an intensive campaign [for family planning] by the Department of Health and local governments," she said.

'Irresponsible'

Romulo Neri, director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, said Wednesday that the 1.95 percent population growth rate was nearing the government's medium-term target of 1.94 percent.

But Remulla said: "It is irresponsible for anybody to say it is going down as a matter of fact. It is important that we have a

full range of family methods and devices."

Remulla also said that while the measure drew the support of more than 120 lawmakers as of early this year, Speaker Jose de Venecia and House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles had yet to schedule it for debate.

2 stumbling blocks

"It enjoys broad-based support but we have two stumbling blocks—the Speaker and the majority leader. There have been sponsorship speeches but we still have yet to have our full debates," he said.

Remulla added that this might

GMA lauds Popcom for drop in growth rate

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO wants the population growth rate pegged at its current level of 1.95 percent, Health Secretary Francisco Duque said yesterday.

He said Ms Arroyo stated this position during a Cabinet meeting of the National Anti-Poverty Commission and the National Economic and Development Authority held at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.

"President Arroyo said the money to be used in bringing down further the population growth rate could be used instead to feed the hungry, generate employment and spur economic activities," Duque told reporters after the meeting.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said

Ms Arroyo congratulated officials of the Population Commission for "the significant drop in the population growth rate."

Duque said that by keeping the population growth rate at this level, Ms Arroyo wanted to "aggressively implement the scientific natural family planning methods."

He named five methods that included the Billings ovulation method, which, he said, was supported by the Catholic Church.

Duque also said the slowdown in the population growth rate was a result of the "economic status" of the people.

"There is a correlation between a person's economic status and the fertility rate. The poorer you are, the higher the fertility rate," he said.



REMULLA: 6-year-old data

be due to "very strong pressure" from the Catholic bishops and lay Catholic groups.

Muntinlupa Rep. Rozana Rufino Biazon, another proponent of the bill, said he was "somewhat pessimistic" about its chances, especially with the House leadership focused on Charter change.

Biazon said the reported slowdown in population growth should not affect the bill's passage because it was not only about population management but was also "a health measure aimed at giving our constituents access to much needed information on reproductive health."

Fertility rate

Quoting results of the NSCB's regular National Demographics and Health Survey, Castro said the fertility rate among women slowed down from an average of six childbirths a year in 1973 to 3.5 childbirths in 2003.

She said the average of 5.1 childbirths a year in 1978 dropped to 4.4 in 1986, to 4.1 percent in 1993, to 3.7 in 1998, and to 3.5 in 2003.

Castro also said the declining fertility rate among women was backed by the fact that the prevalence rate of the use of contraceptives among them had been on an upward trend.

She said that according to the same survey, contraception prevalence rate rose from 17.4 percent of married women aged 15 to 49 in 1973 to 48.9 percent in 2003.

"[The survey] shows that contraception prevalence rate was already almost 49 percent," Castro said, adding that the government's advocacy programs for family planning should be partly credited for this.

Last in priorities

Elmer Labog, chair of the militant labor alliance Kilusang Mayo Uno, said that despite the slowdown in population growth, workers were not being educated on proper and effective family planning methods.

"The general welfare of workers and their families comes last in the priorities of the government and employers. If the government provides sufficient education campaign on population control and, at the same time, provides sufficient employment and sources of living to its people, having a big population will not be a problem," he said.

Labog said it was unfair to always link the poverty problem to population growth.

He said that if the government managed socioeconomic structures well, there would be no poor Filipinos even if the population grew.

To the Neda statement that the government's poverty-reduction goal could be within reach with the slowdown in population growth, Labog said: "Our rich natural resources are more than enough to feed our people, but the Church and the government are both overlooking the fact that there is a big disparity in the distribution of the country's social wealth."

He issued a reminder to Neri that more than half of the national budget was allocated to the payment of onerous foreign debts and military spending rather than on the social services desperately needed by the poor.

Family planning education

But Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said that while the DOH did not have a substantial budget for family planning programs, it had been active in educating couples on natural methods of contraception.

Duque said local government units even had more programs on family planning, especially since the function of providing public health services had been devolved to LGUs since 1992.

Although the national government promotes natural methods, LGUs have their own family planning programs, he said.

Duque also attributed the projected decline in population growth to the improving economy and the growth in the number of educated Filipinos.

"If the economy is improving and if more people are getting educated, the result is that the fertility rate of women is declining. There is a strong relationship between education and fertility rate," he said.

With a report from Jerome Aning and Mary Ann I. Ranola

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**CEBU
PACIFIC**

Gov't agency printing Cha-cha primers

From page A1

stirred up by the administration's dual moves to amend the 1987 Constitution and adopt the parliamentary system.

The two separate moves involve a signature campaign under a "people's initiative" and the convening of the Senate and the House of Representatives into a constituent assembly.

Legal to spend public funds

PIA Director General Conrado Limcaco dismissed suggestions of wrongdoing.

"The President ran and won on a platform of Charter change," he said. "So it's legal to spend public funds to promote her espoused platform."

The NPO printed the primers at its office on EDSA corner NIA Northside Road in Quezon City from mid-March to early May this year, churning out hundreds of thousands of copies, the insider said.

"The order came from Malacañang. We know the people who brought the materials to us are from Malacañang. They are familiar to us; they have come to our office a number of times," the insider said.

The primer, printed in English and Filipino, harped on the need for Charter change and the advantages of a federal system and parliamentary form of government, and squelched claims this was designed to keep President Macapagal-Arroyo in power.

Allegations that Ms Arroyo stole the 2004 presidential election have sparked demands that she resign although she has denied any wrongdoing.

The 12-page material explained that the President was leaving the matter on Charter change to Congress, even as it pointed to her preference for a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution.

Technical malversation

Lawyer Melanio "Batas" Mauricio said publication of the primers could amount to technical malversation if it was established that PIA funds, allocated by Congress, were used in the project.

"If their fund is allocated for other purpose, that's technical malversation," Mauricio said in an interview.

"This can also be a violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act because you're giving undue advantage to a sector of government pushing for Charter change," he said.

Felipe Evardone, NPO OIC-director, told the Inquirer his agency printed only 100,000 copies -- 50,000 in English and another 50,000 in Filipino. He said the cost was minimal because he used old stocks of paper. "We did

not spend a single centavo."

The director is the brother of Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, spokesperson of the Union of the Local Authorities of the Philippines, which was at the forefront of gathering signatures in support of people's initiative.

"This could be one of the items being distributed in the forums of the Sigaw ng Bayan and the Advocacy Commission. I heard they have been distributing primer on this and that," Rene Azurin said in an interview.

Azurin, a member of the defunct Consultative Commission and one of six who dissented with its recommendation to scrap the 2007 elections preparatory to a shift to parliamentary government, speaks at forums to expose the agenda behind Charter change.

Cash cows

Also on Thursday, the leftist Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said Malacañang's recent takeover of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) could be part of Ms Arroyo's Charter change drive.

Renato Reyes, Bayan secretary general, said the move on Pagcor and PCSO was aimed at "tightening government's grip on vital milking cows that can be used to fuel Arroyo's lagging Cha-cha train."

Sigaw ng Bayan, a civic group led by former Concom member Raul Lambino, yesterday called on the Senate to heed the people's "clamor" for Charter change.

The group is spearheading the moves to gather signatures in support of a petition for amendment through a people's initiative. This involves a single question on whether Filipinos approve of the abolition of the Senate in favor of a unicameral legislature and unspecified transitory provisions that will pave the way for the adoption of the parliamentary system.

The effort is facing stiff opposition from a multi-sectoral group which argued that there was no enabling law to cover amendments in a people's initiative and that such an exercise was designed to amend, not revise, the Charter.

Court will settle issues

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who opposed a similar people's initiative in 1997 on grounds there was no law calling for it, yesterday said she favored both the signature gathering campaign and the convening of a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution.

At the sidelines of the state visit to Saudi Arabia, which she joined, Santiago said Ms Arroyo

3 out of 5 youths ...

From page A1

funds to bankroll an intensive awareness and education campaign among the youth on the human immunodeficiency virus that could lead to the incurable Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

The young people surveyed were part of the "lost generation" that was left out of the intensive education campaign conducted from 1993 to 2003 and funded by the United States Agency for International Development, according to Dr. Eric Tayag, director of the National Epidemiology Center of the DOH.

"They believe that they have an inherent protection against HIV/AIDS. It is a myth and it is disturbing," Tayag said on the sidelines of the CEO forum on HIV/AIDS in the workplace held yesterday at the New World Renaissance Hotel.

Tayag said a good number of these young people were "sexually active," thus putting them at risk of contracting the virus.

He said it was difficult to bring to them the right information on HIV/AIDS because they were "distracted" by such issues as music, fashion and fads.

Tayag said the DOH was considering taking the issue directly to the schools. But he said this would be a challenge because no funds were available to mount an information campaign.

11,168 adults

The latest DOH figures presented during the forum put the number of adults (aged 15-49) living with HIV/AIDS at 11,168.

Of the number, the bulk (or

8,226) came from the "general population."

Another 1,136 were male clients of female sex workers while 1,171 were men who had sex with men. The rest were female sex workers and people using drugs intravenously.

The data also showed that 86 percent of the people living with HIV/AIDS contracted the virus through sexual contact -- heterosexual, 62 percent; homosexual, 18 percent; and bisexual, 5 percent.

The rest were infected through needles used in injecting drugs or blood transfusions. A number "inherited" the virus from mothers with HIV/AIDS.

Prevention

Tayag said that while the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the Philippines was still minimal compared to other countries, the DOH was being proactive and had set a goal of preventing its further spread and reducing its impact on individuals, families and communities.

A call to business

Edgar Chua, country chair of the Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and head of the business and health cluster of the Philippine Business for Social Progress, called on business organizations to take part in the information campaign by financing HIV/AIDS education programs in the workplace.

Chua said it made business sense to put up such a program as it would ensure continued productivity in the workplace and, at the same time, constitute a social investment in communities participating in a company's products.

Ermita courts generals for Cha-cha

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A MALACAÑANG-BACKED Charter change group has started courting military and police generals.

With no less than Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita around, the Advocacy Commission for Charter Change made a pitch before members of the Association of Generals and Flag Officers (Agfo) at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

Raul Lambino, the group's convenor, even went to the extent of claiming that a change in the system of government would solve much of the military's woes, including the communist insurgency.

"You have been a major political arbiter of this country so we are asking your help in disseminating this information," said another commissioner, Romela Bengzon.

Violation?

Among the active generals who participated in the lecture were Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Antonio Romero and Philippine National Police Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr.

The military leadership had insisted on insulating the troops

agreed with her that the legality of the two modes would eventually be left to the Supreme Court to settle.

"If the court rules that it would be legal for Congress to vote together instead of separately, then

from politics at the height of calls for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo last year over allegations she rigged the 2004 election.

Ermita, a retired general and a convenor of the Advocacy Commission, was unconcerned that bringing the Charter change campaign to the military violated its "apolitical" status.

"The presence of the advocacy commissioners here does not mean that the military is being politicized. It's just an information campaign. It would not do any harm if they ask the support of the military so Charter change will succeed," Ermita told reporters.

Lambino said his group had been asking the AFP and the PNP to openly declare support for the Charter change drive, since Malacañang had already done so.

Nothing illegal

"There's nothing illegal if they're going to openly express support," he said.

He told the generals that the communist insurgency would weaken under a federal-parliamentary system since services would be delivered faster to the poor, thus discouraging them

from joining the rebel movement.

"The communists benefit under the present system, which is too slow," Lambino later said in an interview. He said soldiers' perennial complaints about low pay would be solved by changing the system of government.

He said under a parliamentary system, the savings from lesser bureaucratic red tape could be channeled to basic services and better pay for government workers.

"They (soldiers) should support Charter change because they are suffering so much. They're not receiving good benefits. Imagine, their laundry allowance is only P13," said Lambino.

Military as political arbiter

Bengzon said the campaign needed the military's support to succeed.

"The reality is they have become the political arbiter in this country," she said.

"In the recent past, we saw that the military is very significant in providing change or political stability. The reality is political stability in the Philippines to some extent is based on which position the military

would take. So, therefore, we are asking them at the same time, informing them that Charter change should be one of those that the military (should) support," Bengzon said.

Lambino said their group would try to tour military camps to sell Charter change to the soldiers.

Ermita supported the idea. "I wish it will be done ... because our soldiers and their families should understand what this Charter change is," he said.

No official position

Agfo president Jose Bello, who was a member of the Malacañang-created Consultative Commission that recommended the shift to the federal-parliamentary system, said his group has not taken an official position.

"But the way I look at it, it looks like they (generals) are in favor of the Charter change. Most likely we are going to support it," he said.

tion's ills. It will only perpetuate President Arroyo and her allies in power," he said. With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac, Gil C. Cabangan Jr. and Norman Bordadora



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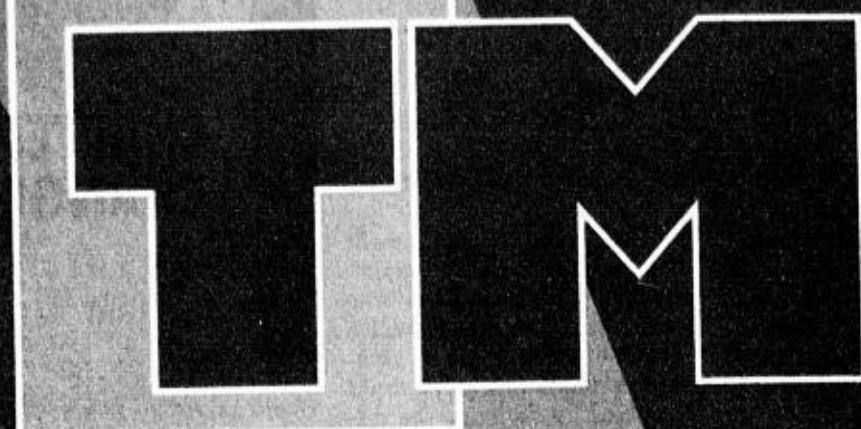
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METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Caloocan factory closed anew for waste water dumping

Snack firm has no permit to operate, says LLDA

By Blanche S. Rivera

ONLY TWO WEEKS AFTER it was allowed to operate despite violating the government's effluent standards, the factory producing the popular corn snack Boy Bawang was again ordered closed yesterday.

The Laguna Lake Development Authority reimposed the cease-and-desist order (CDO) issued against the KSK Food Products factory in Bignay, Caloocan City, after an inspection team found that it had failed to comply with the conditions of the temporary lifting order (TLO) given to the company.

KSK Food Products is operating without an LLDA clearance and water discharge permit, but has pending applications for the permits, the agency said.

"Remedial measures that they declared in their urgent motion for the issuance of a temporary lifting order are not being strictly implemented," the inspection team said in its report yesterday.

The team, which went to the site on Wednesday, recommended that the LLDA notify the company to strictly implement the remedial measures in its TLO, and repair the facilities required for treating waste water discharges.

LLDA general manager Casimiro Ynares III, however, rejected the recommendations. He said KSK Food Products was not operating its solid-liquid separator, and was not likely to have a waste water treatment facility by July 27.

"Why remind the factory officials again? It took us one year to close it. KSK will not operate again until it completes the waste water treatment facility," Ynares said in an interview yesterday.

No order

KSK spokesperson Narciso Mallari Jr., however, said the company has not yet received the order on the reimposition of the CDO, so it was still operating.

Mallari, chief of the KSK human resources division, insisted that the company was complying with the TLO conditions and was not informed of the LLDA's recent decision.

"We are on track. We have 90 days to comply with the conditions. Everything is being done," he said in a phone interview yesterday.

According to Jonathan Biscocho, head of KSK's manufacturing department, the new order was "unfortunate" because as far as they were concerned, they had abided by the LLDA recommendation and had installed remedial measures.

"One of the pumps was busted and water was not flowing at the time the LLDA people visited the plant," Biscocho said. He explained that the repair work was over and that the pump is now working.

Biscocho added that the food company management would not make any commitment to the LLDA that it could not follow.

Al Santamaria, head of the city's Environment and Sanitation department, on the other hand, said they had not received any complaint against the food company.

"We do not know of any complaint but we will investigate the matter," he added.

High level

Sampling done by an LLDA team on March 6 showed that the level of the bio-oxygen demand in the effluents released by the factory was 1180 mg/l, way higher than the acceptable 50 mg/l, while its chemical oxygen demand level was 3062 mg/l or 300 times more than the standard of 100 mg/l.

The effluents also registered total suspended solids of 544 mg/l, almost 10 times the standard 70. It, however, met the normal pH count with its pH 8.4 and oil and grease of negative 1.

KSK Food Products has been fined around P333,000 for violating the effluent standards of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. It has paid only P83,250 in penalties so far.

Ynares said the LLDA decided it would get serious in penalizing firms with pollution problems within its jurisdiction after experts reported that the Laguna de Bay, the biggest inland body of water in the country, was polluted and "extremely stressed."

The LLDA has issued CDOs against eight firms, including a paper mill, a municipal slaughterhouse and restaurants, this year, but only four got suspension of operations orders. The rest have pending appeals.

With Nancy C. Carvajal

WHAT'S INSIDE

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■ Is there Yamashita gold on QC school campus?

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■ 2 suspected car thieves arrested in Quezon City

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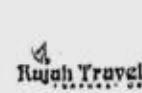
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Policemen seize undervalued computer shipment in Manila

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE POLICE SEIZED YESTERDAY A 40-foot-van containing computer monitors with an estimated value of P2.6 million.

The police stopped the van as it left the Bureau of Customs area in Manila. They suspected the cargo was misdeclared and the importer paid way below actual duties.

Police seized the truck Tuesday evening as it left Gate 6 in Port Area. When opened by investigators and customs officers inside Camp Crame, the van was found to contain hundreds of computer monitors worth about P3,000 apiece.

Reconditioned or brand new?

Customs officials have yet to determine if the monitors were brand new or reconditioned, but the police said they "looked new."

"The importers said they were used computer parts, but the monitors turned out to be brand new," said Supt. Benjamin de los Santos, head of the

anti-smuggling task force of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

The importer, Saturn Information Technology, paid only P32,000 for the cargo based on customs documents, the police said.

Red flag

"It's what we call 'red flag'. If only P32,000 is paid for a 40-foot container van, you see a red flag there. It really depends on the cargo, but the average payment for each van is around P100,000," De los Santos said.

Customs examiner Dionisito Valles explained that these kinds of cargo were free of tariff and that the importer paid only for the value added tax.

If it was established that the importer misdeclared the value of goods, the company would have to pay more, Valles said.

A representative of Saturn Information Technology explained that the computer monitors, imported from Malaysia, were refurbished and reconditioned, and not brand new.



CIDG personnel inspect computer monitors at Camp Crame.

JOAN BONDOC

Cops report threat on Makati mayor's life

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE MAKATI CITY GOVERNMENT DISCLOSED yesterday what it called a "continuing and serious threat" on the life of Mayor Jejomar Binay.

Sr. Supt. Marietto Valerio, Makati police chief, in a report to Binay, said "unknown forces" were planning to hurt or, worse, assassinate the opposition leader.

"The mayor faces a continuing and serious threat from still unknown but powerful blocs that may strike unexpectedly," said Valerio in the report declassified yesterday by City Hall.



BINAY

But the threats did not faze Binay, president of the United Opposition (UNO), an organization at the forefront of the campaign for President Macapagal Arroyo's ouster.

After making some changes in his security arrangements, his staff said the mayor continued with his daily routine.

"My work as mayor and as president of the [UNO] will not be affected by threats from individuals who have no respect for the role of the opposition in a democracy," Binay said.

The Makati Police Station made the threat assessment on Binay's request. He wanted to

know if reported threats against him, his family and political allies were real, Valerio said.

Binay received similar threats in May 2002 through text messages, unsigned letters and calls to his office.

The police also learned of a "politically motivated" assassination plot.

In its latest report, the police said some men had been monitoring the mayor's moves, as well as those of family members, friends and known supporters.

Valerio cited the recent assassination of Binay's political ally, Edilmar Pancipane, as an indication that the threat was real.

Is the Yamashita gold under a QC business school?

By DJ Yap and Kenneth del Rosario

ARE TREASURE HUNTERS SEEKING the fabled Yamashita gold digging under the Philippine School of Business Administration (PSBA) in Quezon City to unearth the treasure?

The city's building officials are looking into reports that treasure-hunting excavations may cause the foundations of the school on Aurora Boulevard to collapse.

So far, the city has found no proof of the claim, and no complaint has been received by the Office of the Building

Official (OBO), the concerned agency.

But city officials said they would continue their probe, since the safety of the school was at stake.

A PSBA official, who refused to give his name but identified himself as chief of security and maintenance, vehemently denied that diggings were being done on campus. "In fact, inspections have been done by the city's building officials and security people from the mayor's office, but nothing was found," he told the INQUIRER.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources sent its own inspection

team yesterday to inspect the site, but it is not known when the team would release its report. Antonio Avila, chief of the enforcement and inspection division of the OBO, confirmed that previous inspections of the site yielded negative results.

PSBA representatives conferred with building officials on Wednesday, and promised to submit the school's position paper by Monday, Avila said. He expected the document to reiterate the school's denial.

One of the members of the May 5 inspection team, architect Edgardo del

Rosario, said he searched inside and outside the building for signs of diggings, but found nothing out of the ordinary. But he admitted that the inspections were "not thorough," since he was escorted by school security people the whole time.

Avila said the investigation into the alleged excavation work began when seven persons claimed in radio interviews that they had been digging at the PSBA for the past several years.

Del Rosario said tales of treasure-hunting at the PSBA had been making the rounds since the late 1990s.

METROBRIEFS

Wrong outlet

THE PASIG CITY government is set to file charges against a company engaged in siphoning sludge from septic tanks in Metro Manila for allegedly dumping human waste into a drainage system.

Raquel Naciongao, head of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office, said workers of the E. Malabanian Belen company allegedly dumped the waste early Tuesday morning into a drainage system on Avis corner Santiago Streets in Barangay Bagong Ilog. Barangay watchman Bienvenido Landicho, who was on patrol duty at that time, said he had witnessed the incident and promptly took down the plate number of the company's dump. The truck driver, Fernando Marciano, however, told police he had no hand in the dumping of the waste. Naciongao said the city's Business Permit and Licensing Office had suspended all permits given to the company after it was reportedly caught dumping human waste in a drainage system in E. Rodriguez, Quezon City on June 14, 2004. The INQUIRER tried to get in touch with Luzviminda Belen, the company's operating manager, but a staffer said she was not around. A company employee, Sandra Retrado, however, denied the allegations. "It was not human waste that was dumped in the drainage. It was just liquid," she said.

Jocelyn R. Uy

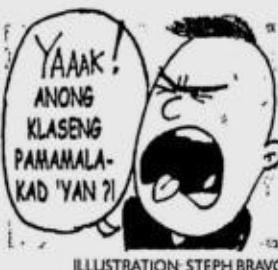


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Short ride

TWO suspected car thieves believed to be linked to the same group that stole the car of a congressman's wife in Quezon City recently were arrested before midnight Wednesday. A day after three armed men stole the Nissan Patrol of Priscilla Espino, wife of Pangasinan Rep. Amado Espino Jr., police caught two suspected carjackers aboard the same getaway car used in the incident. The suspects were identified as Ernesto Sagabaa, 42, a car salesman also known by the alias "Mark Reyes," and Rolando Gatche, 22. Investigators said the suspects, with three other men, tried to hijack a Toyota Rav 4 owned by Rodolfo Abrinico at 11 p.m. along EDSA, Ballintawak. The suspects fled on board a black Mitsubishi Lancer and led pursuing police officers in a chase that ended in Caloocan City. DJ Yap

Operation not legit

POLICE arrested four of their own anti-narcotics agents during a tension-filled buy-bust operation in Manila yesterday. The four men turned out to be officers of the Manila Police District's anti-illegal drugs unit. The arrested men claimed they were conducting a legitimate operation when they were apprehended, but could not produce papers to back their claim and were not accompanied by any official, according to Chief Inspector Rodel Pastor, head of the arresting unit. Pastor's team seized more than a kilo of suspected shabu estimated at P3.4 million found in a car allegedly owned by the four who were identified as P01 Erwin Castro, P02 Jonathan Ruiz, P03 Mike Fabian Ongpauco and P02 Dranreb Cipriano.

Lugue A. del Puerto

Detox symposium

FOR its 8th founding anniversary, the Philippines Federation of Natural Health is offering to the public a free health symposium on body detoxification on Saturday, May 13 at the Emerald function room, Tiara Oriental Hotel on Malugay Street corner Talisay, San Antonio Village, Makati City, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For reservations, please call Mr. Emz at tel. 3717016

TV GUIDE

Friday, May 12, 2006

Who will be next? Find out here on your Philippine Idol Network



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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM	
ABC 5																				
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema	When Animals Attack		Mr. Boss	Naruto	Outstanding Writer		Sentro	PBA	Pinky Big Brother	Gilong Ng Pilipinas	Sa Pilipinas	Panday	2 Fast 2 Furious	Bg News	Real Stones				
AXN	Police Academy	Richie Rich	Tom & Jerry Show	Fair Factor (Season VI)	Hi Hi Puffy Amiyumi	Colorama Kids Next Door	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Business International Forensic Files	World Sport	Power Rangers Wild Force	Pokémon	Yu-Gi-Oh! Double Duel	World Sport	World News Asia	Wonderful Life	Insider				
Cinemax	Business International Surface	World News	World Sport	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	Business International Forensic Files	World Sport	World News Asia	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Parodycat!	World News Asia	Dominic Purcell: Power & Justice	When Disasters Strike	Against The Rules (11:30PM)				
Discovery Channel	Connected	Extreme Engineering	The Child Who Spoke To God	Toy Story	Toy Story	Toy Story	Stay Alive	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	The Tyra Banks Show	That's So Raven Week	Joan Of Arcadia	American Chopper	2 Fast 2 Furious	Your World Today	Crossing Jordan					
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Total Spies	Adventures In Babysitting	Major League	Brave Little Toaster: Yesterdays	Lilo & Stitch	Toy Story	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	NBC Nightly News	Defending Us	Life On The Rock	In The Driver's Seat	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno					
ESPN	Motorsport Asia		Adventures In Babysitting	Major League	Brave Little Toaster: Yesterdays	Change of Heart	Elmopalooza	Bind It	Dr. Phil	Defending Us	Joan Of Arcadia	American Chopper	ABC News	NBC Nightly News	NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition				
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ETC 2nd Avenue	The Good Code	The Natural Law	Charly Of Many Angels	Mr. Potato Head	Mr. Potato Head	Mr. Potato Head	Mr. Potato Head	The Jerry Springer Show	Defending Us	Joan Of Arcadia	Joan Of Arcadia	Joan Of Arcadia	ABC News	Entertainment Tonight	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno					
EWTN								EWTV Gallery	EWTV Gallery	Joan Of Arcadia	Joan Of Arcadia	Joan Of Arcadia	ABC News	Entertainment Tonight	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno					
Fox News								On The Run With Great Vacations	Backstage	Joan Of Arcadia	Joan Of Arcadia	Joan Of Arcadia	ABC News	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider					
GMA 7	Agaw Mo Man Ang Lahat	New and Forever	Snow White Sweet Love	Snow White Sweet Love	Snow White Sweet Love	Sayid	Dragonball Z	Goku	24 Hours	Joan Of Arcadia	Joan Of Arcadia	Joan Of Arcadia	ABC News	Bubble Gang	Entertainment Tonight					
Hallmark Channel								Blind Date	Joan Of Arcadia	Joan Of Arcadia	Joan Of Arcadia	Joan Of Arcadia	ABC News	Entertainment Tonight	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno					
HBO	Mo Money	Yu-Gi-Oh! Duel Monsters	Yakult Japan	Mr. Akiho	Mr. Akiho	Mr. Potato Head	Samurai Deeper Kamen	Combatant V	Combatant V	Joan Of Arcadia	Joan Of Arcadia	Joan Of Arcadia	ABC News	Entertainment Tonight	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno					
Hiro TV	Yu-Gi-Oh! Duel Monsters	Yakult Japan	Mr. Potato Head	Mr. Potato Head	Mr. Potato Head	Mr. Potato Head	Mr. Potato Head	Home Shopping Network	BC Express Bola	Joan Of Arcadia	Joan Of Arcadia	Joan Of Arcadia	ABC News	Entertainment Tonight	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno					
IBO 13	EZ Shop	The Late Show With David Letterman	30 Minute Model	Wolfgang Puck	Wolfgang Puck	Wolfgang Puck	Wolfgang Puck	Intertel By Design Inc.	Decorating Style	Decorating Style	Decorating Style	Decorating Style	ABC News	Entertainment Tonight	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno					
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FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2006

Putin: Russia has to be strong vs 'fortress' US

MOSCOW—RUSSIA FACES A growing arms race against a "fortress" United States which cares more about its own interests than democracy or human rights, President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday in his annual state of the nation speech.

In a wide-ranging, nationally televised address to both houses of parliament, Putin spent most time on domestic issues, particularly the rapid decline of the

country's population, which the Russian leader said is losing 700,000 people a year.

But his most biting comments targeted the United States, which has become increasingly critical of Russia's human rights records, with Vice President Dick Cheney claiming last week that "opponents of democracy" were seeking to roll back post-Soviet gains.

Putin warned that it was "pre-

mature to speak of the end of the arms race. It is in reality rising to a new technological level."

He said that Russia was forced to react when the United States was spending 25 times more on defense.

"In the defense sphere, this is called 'their house is their fortress.' Well done! But it means that we must build our house strongly, reliably, because we see what's going on in the world."

Putin—who in July hosts US President George W. Bush and other leaders of the Group of Eight at a Saint Petersburg summit—swiped at US complaints that his seven-year rule has undercut Russian democracy.

"Where does the whole pathos about the need to struggle for democracy and human rights disappear to, when the talk is about ensuring one's own interests?" he demanded. "Then it seems ev-

erything is possible. There are no limits at all."

He then borrowed a Russian saying to illustrate the United States' alleged double standards. "As the saying goes, comrade wolf knows who to eat and he eats without listening to others."

Putin also laid out a vision of a Russia switching from an ageing and uncompetitive Soviet-era infrastructure to an economy centred on high-tech areas such as

nanotechnology, nuclear power and the space industry.

"In conditions of fierce international competition, the country's economic development must be based, essentially, on its scientific and technological advantages," he said.

"Unfortunately, one has to face that the majority of the technical equipment used in the national economy is not years behind the top level, but decades." AFP

Italy chooses president

ROME—ITALY PICKED A FORMER communist, Giorgio Napolitano, to be its new president on Wednesday, opening the way for Romano Prodi to become prime minister more than a month after winning a close-run general election.

Napolitano, an 80-year-old senator for life, secured 543 votes from the "grand electors"—parliamentarians and regional representatives—38 more than the absolute majority needed.

The result was a crucial victory for Prodi who cannot take his center-left coalition into power until the new president gives him a mandate to govern.

It was the latest blow to outgoing Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon who took three weeks to accept he lost the April 9–10 national election by a whisker.

Reuters



SOLD TO THE SOUP LOVER FOR \$11.7M
A 1962 painting entitled: "Small Torn Campbell's Soup Can (Pepper Pot)," by pop artist Andy Warhol was sold at auction by Christies for \$11.7 million. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

A.M. Rosenthal, NY Times editor; 84



ROSENTHAL AP

NEW YORK—New York Times journalist A.M. Rosenthal, who left an indelible mark on the US newspaper during 17 years as its top editor, died on Wednesday at the age of 84, the paper said. Rosenthal suffered a stroke two weeks ago and never recovered, his son Andrew told the Times. Born on May 2, 1922 in Sault Ste Marie in Canada of a Jewish family with roots in Belarus, Rosenthal started with the paper in 1944. Rosenthal, known as Abe, covered the United Nations for the Times and later served as a foreign correspondent in India and Japan. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1960 for his reporting on the communist regime in Poland, which expelled him for his efforts. He rose through the ranks to take over as managing editor beginning in 1969, later taking the title of executive editor. In 1971, Rosenthal played an instrumental role in the decision to publish the "Pentagon Papers," a secret government history of the Vietnam War. President Richard Nixon's administration failed to block the publication of the papers that revealed a pattern of official deception. The dispute led to a landmark Supreme Court ruling that rejected the government's demand to require "prior restraint" on what may be printed. Rosenthal oversaw coverage of the war in Vietnam, the Watergate scandal, the Cold War and crises in the Middle East. Along with publisher Arthur Sulzberger, he is credited with helping restore the paper's health after an economic slide and overseeing a new format that has continued to this day.

AFP

Briton wants Guantanamo closed

LONDON—In the most explicit British condemnation of the Guantanamo Bay detention center, Lord Goldsmith, the attorney general, said Wednesday that the camp's existence was "unacceptable" and ran counter to the United States' tradition as a "beacon of freedom, liberty and of justice." He called for it to be closed. The remarks by Lord Goldsmith, the government's most senior adviser, went far beyond the set response offered by Prime Minister Tony Blair who, when asked for his views on Guantanamo, called it an "anomaly" that must at some stage close. The prime minister, America's closest ally in the military campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan, offered no direct comment on his aide's views. But his official spokesperson, who is not publicly identified under civil service rules, said the camp's existence presented a problem because American officials saw many of the detainees as dangerous people who could not be released.

NYT

Hispanics, Asians fastest growing in US

WASHINGTON—HISPANICS AND Asians are the fastest growing ethnic groups in the United States, where one in three people now belong to a minority group, the US Census Bureau said Wednesday.

In 2005, the minority population totaled 98 million, or 33 percent of the 296.4 million US population, the agency said.

"These mid-decade numbers provide further evidence of the increasing diversity of our nation's population," Census Bureau director Louis Kincannon said.

Hispanics—a cultural grouping whose members may belong to any race or combination of races—were the largest and fastest growing US-minority, numbering 42.7 million and with a 3.3 percent population rate increase in the year ending July 1, 2005.

Of the increase of 1.3 million, 500,000 were new immigrants,

the bureau said.

Blacks formed the second largest minority group at 39.7 million and had a population rate increase of 1.3 percent.

The Asian population of 14.4 million grew by three percent. More than half of this group's increase—239,000 of a total 421,000—was due to immigration.

The other minority groups surveyed by the Census Bureau were American Indians and Alaska natives, (4.5 million), and native Hawaiians and other Pacific islanders (990,000). They grew by one percent and 1.5 percent, respectively.

Non-Hispanic whites represent almost 67 percent of the total population, but this group has an older median age and a slow growth rate, adding just 500,000 new members in the time period studied, the Census Bureau said.

AFP

Why won't US, Iran work out differences in face-to-face talks?

By William J. Cole

VIENNA, AUSTRIA—AS THE United States toughens its stance on Iran's nuclear program, and bitterness toward Americans hardens on the streets of Tehran, many people can't help but wonder: Why don't the two countries hold face-to-face talks to ease the crisis?

Some say Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's letter this week to US President George W. Bush—the first of its kind in nearly three decades—could break the impasse. But leaders, experts and commentators believe the prospects of the two meeting to defuse virtually irreconcilable differences are bleak at best.

Bush, they point out, doesn't want to engage in dialogue with the head of a state he labeled part of an "Axis of Evil" along with Iraq and North Korea. And Ahmadinejad's letter, while an overture, was laced with old grievances against an America that Tehran brands the

quire nuclear weapons to ensure state security," he said. "The United States does not want to have direct talks with Iran just like it does not want to talk with North Korea."

Shahin Gobadi, spokesperson for the Paris-based National Council of Resistance of Iran, an exile group, said a Bush-Ahmadinejad summit is implausible because the Tehran regime "has not been willing to accept the norms and rules of conduct of the 21st century."

"This regime is built on the concept of medieval religious tyranny. It's not compatible with dialogue," he told The Associated Press. "Either you try to export your revolution to other countries or you deal like a normal government."

If Ahmadinejad's 18-page letter sums up Iran's position in a standoff that has moved to the UN Security Council, then "there is no prospect of negotiation," said Steve Hoadley, an associate professor of political studies at New Zealand's Auckland University. AP

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

1,091 killed in Baghdad in April

AN IRAQI woman weeps outside a hospital after her daughter was killed by a bomb attack in Kerbala, 110 km south of Baghdad May 7. REUTERS

BAGHDAD—IRAQI PRESIDENT JALAL TALABANI on Wednesday said at least 1,091 people had been killed last month in sectarian violence in Baghdad alone, as a much anticipated parliamentary session produced little result.

Urging quick efforts to quell the raging Shiite-Sunni communal bloodshed, Talabani said "we received a report from the morgue about the deaths in Baghdad that 1,091 people were killed between April 1 and 30."

"We are shocked and angry at the daily reports of unidentified

bodies being discovered and of people killed on the basis of their identity," Talabani was quoted as saying in a statement issued by his office.

The parliamentary session ended following a reading out of new internal regulations with no mention of an anticipated announce-

ment of the country's new cabinet. Parliament will reconvene on Sunday.

Talabani said the overall number of people killed in the violence would be "alarming if we include the number of bodies still missing across Iraq."

"I urge all political parties and security forces to quickly move to quell this bleeding from crimes aimed to create doubts between sons of Iraq and disrupt national unity," he added.

Talabani also said that the current "institutional weakness," a lack of government, was "benefiting the terrorists."

Nearly five months since the December elections for the country's first full-term post-Saddam parlia-

ment, Iraq is still without a government due to wrangling between leaders over ministerial berths.

Raging sectarian violence has left thousands dead across Iraq, mostly Sunni Arabs, in Shiite reprisals after the bombing of a revered Shiite shrine in the northern town of Samarra on Feb. 22.

The sectarian bloodshed has torn Iraq at a time when the Sunnis-backed insurgency has already left over 35,000 civilians dead, according to some estimates, since the end of the US-led invasion in April 2003.

In the latest attacks, at least 16 people were killed across Iraq Wednesday, including 12 in an ambush near the restive city of Baquba, just north of Baghdad. AFP



BLUE ROSES FOR A RED LADY

The world's first "blue roses" developed by Japanese brewer Suntory are seen during a press preview for the Rose Show as part of the World Rose Convention in Osaka May 11.

AFP

2,000 US corruption cases

WASHINGTON—A POST 9/11 EFFORT BY THE FBI to concentrate on public corruption now includes more than 2,000 investigations under way, highlighted by the Jack Abramoff lobbying inquiry, the racketeering and fraud conviction of former Gov. George Ryan Sr. of Illinois and the multipronged corruption probes following the guilty plea by Randy Cunningham, a former Republican House member from San Diego, bureau officials said.

As one of the Bush administration's least known anticrime efforts, the three-year FBI initiative has yielded an unexpectedly rich array of cases. The results suggest that wrongdoing by public officials at all levels of government is deeply rooted and widespread. Sever-

al of the highest profile cases in which the FBI played an active role involve Republicans.

Bureau officials believe the investment in corruption cases is easily worth the cost. In 2004 and 2005, more than 1,060 government employees have been convicted of corrupt activities as well as 177 federal officials, 158 state officials, 360 local officials and 365 police officers, according to FBI statistics. That is a 27 percent increase in the number of convictions in the last two years.

In an interview, FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III said: "You come to realize first of all that public corruption tears the fabric of a democratic society. You lose faith in public officials. It leads to cynicism. It leads to distrust in government." NYT





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Powerhouse NCR poised for two-division sweep

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NAGA CITY (VIA BAYANTEL)—HEAVY RAINS AND gusts announcing the impending arrival of tropical storm Caloy wrecked yesterday's schedule but not after the National Capital Region had forged ahead in both elementary and secondary divisions of the Palarong Pam-bansa at the Metro Naga Sports Complex.

With their continued success in athletics and swimming and new gains in taekwondo and lawn tennis, the Big City athletes took commanding leads based on the points system of the organizing Department of Education and on the unofficial medal count prepared by tallying partner Worldtech Resources Institute.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, NCR was way ahead in the elementary competitions with 314 points. Defending champion Calabarzon was a far second with 209.5 points and Western Visayas an even more distant third with 126.

Rounding out the top 10 were Central Visayas with 91 points, Northern Mindanao 84, Central Luzon 82.5, Cotabato Region 59, Davao Peninsula and host Bicol Region tied with 55, Mimaropa with 54.5 and Ilocos Region with 43.5 points.

It was the same NCR-Calabarzon-West Visayas leadership hierarchy in the secondary division, although the gap was not as big this time.

Defending champion NCR showed the way with 310.5 points followed by Calabarzon with 269.5 points and West-

ern Visayas with 203.

The rest of the top 10 in high school were Central Visayas (130), host Bicol (84), Northern Mindanao (70), Davao Peninsula (46), Mimaropa (42), Cotabato Region (36) and Central Luzon (34).

In the medal race, NCR kept the lead with 28 golds on top of 20 silvers and 17 bronzes. Calabarzon stood second with a gold-silver-bronze tally of 19-15-14 followed by Western Visayas (12-13-13), Northern Mindanao (6-5-4) and host Bicol Region (5-2-11).

The stormy weather forced the scrapping of the consolation rounds in basketball, volleyball and sepak takraw, but the championship games will be transferred to indoor facilities around the city like the Ateneo de Naga Gym.

"We have contingency plans in case the conditions worsen, but definitely there won't be any cancellation of events because of the weather," Palaro national coordinator Len Toledo told the INQUIRER.

Lawn tennis, football and track and field will push through as scheduled, he added.



JASON Damaran of Region 7 clears the bar at 1.79 meter to nail the gold.

NCR picked up four golds in elementary taekwondo through Regine Emee Lumbo (girls 4-foot-6 to 4-9), Kim Alexis Garcia (girls 4-9 to 5-0), James Edward Cruz (boys 4-3 to 4-6) and Josh Emmanuel Ong (boys 4-6 to 4-9).

Lumbo beat Thea Danica Albaracin of Davao region for the gold and Garcia outscored Michelle Dagpin of Central Luzon. Cruz won over Calabarzon's John Robert Paras while Ong prevailed over Matthew Cordero.

Veteran Lea Casilihan clocked 16.1

seconds to claim the secondary girls' 100-meter hurdles gold for NCR while Paul Noel Polero and his brother Ryan won the elementary boys' doubles in lawn tennis over Central Visayas' Bernadine Siso and John Arnel Go.

Bicol seized a third gold in athletics when 11-year-old Angeline Panciles ruled the elementary girls' 400 meters, clocking one minute and 3.2 seconds. Other Bicolano winners were Aiza Rosero in secondary shot put and Emmanuel delos Reyes in secondary long jump.

FIVE-GOLD winner Jasmine Al-Khaldi of NCR returns to the dressing room after topping her heat in the 100m butterfly. JESS YUSON



DAVADILLA

QUIRIMIT



FELICIANO

BARNACHEA

Padyak Pinoy under way; Davadilla picked

By Musong R. Castillo

THE JOURNEY IS JUST OVER 1,200 KILOMETERS spread over eight days, quite a short route for someone seeking to land in a place no man before him has ever been to.

But Warren Davadilla is not razor-sharp when he starts his quest to win the Tour Pilipinas for an unprecedented third time beginning today.

The defending champion Davadilla will lead 79 other warriors on wheels in a strength-sapping trek, dubbed Tanduay Padyak Pinoy 2006, that would take them from the flat roads of Quezon City to the highest peaks of Luzon.

Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte has been invited to flag off the riders at 9 a.m. from the Quezon City Memorial Circle to Cabanatuan City, a 125-km trip that is as important as any in the summer spectacle's short but tough itinerary.

Davadilla will be coming into the Tour with just a month's preparation, with the challenge to come from a talented field that includes Arnel Quirimit, another former champ.

The bikathon was postponed twice and chopped down ultimately to just eight stages. It does not offer prize money comparable to the big purses in recent past.

But Davadilla's bid for an unprecedented third victory will be the main focus of this event that has produced sports legends like Jose Sumalde and Cornelio Padilla Jr.

"Another victory will make him the greatest champion of all time," Rene Dolosa, the Bicolano superstar of the 1990s, said in Filipino.



Davadilla, who won for the first time in 1998, is 30 years old and a tested mountain climber like Quirimit, but Dolosa believes there are other riders capable of thwarting the big guns like Ernie Feliciano, Santy Barnachea and Joel Calderon.

From Cabanatuan, the tour proceeds on a 208-km journey to San Fernando City in La Union before taking on the Tour's first real test, the 170-km San Fernando-to-Baguio third stage.

There will be three "killer" climbs, the second taking place in Stage 6 when the riders tackle the "Tatlong Eme" inside the Quezon National Park in the trek from Lucena to Sta. Rosa City.

The Tagaytay-to-Tagaytay seventh stage will more or less determine the outcome, especially in a portion of Talisay town in Batangas where the treacherous "Sungay Road" is located.

Sungay Road is a 9-km stretch that has a 40-degree incline, where more than a handful of riders were forced to dismount last year.

A total of P2.6 million is up for grabs.

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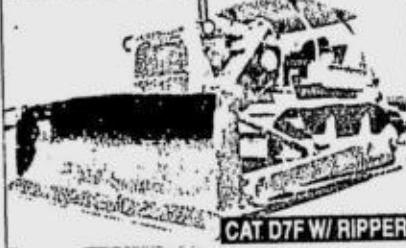
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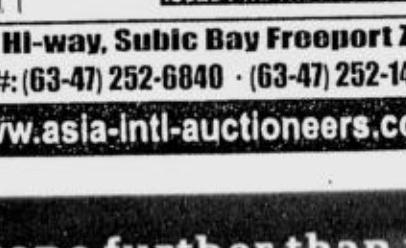
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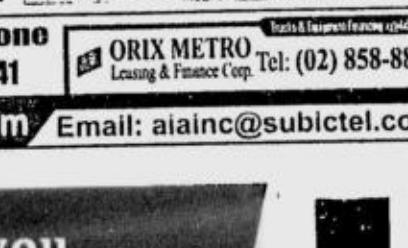
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Bacchus-Harbour scores

BACCHUS/HARBOUR CENTRE-MANILA stepped up in the payoff period to turn back Valencia Golden Harvest, 86-72, the other night and solidify its northern division lead in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship at the C.P. Tinga gym.

Former Ateneo Blue Eagle Magnum Membre broke the backs of Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Valencia cagers, scoring most of his 15 points when it mattered as Bacchus/Harbour overcame 19-21 and 32-36 deficits in the first two quarters.

After a nip-and-tuck third canto which ended at 54-all, coach Lawrence Chongson's Manila squad waxed hot at the start of the

fourth and opened a 69-58 advantage with 3:08 remaining.

Valencia never seemed to get its groove back, taking the final blow in the last two minutes after assistant coach Nolie Tagrip was thrown out for incurring two technical fouls.

The scores:

BACCHUS/HARBOUR 86—Membre 15, Hardin 15, Retaga 13, Sta. Cruz 10, Jay Cuevas 9, Coyukang 7, Pribidhas 5, Jun Cuevas, Padilla 4, Pile 2, Masbang 2.

VALENCIA 72—Cruz 12, Braga 12, Cummings 11, Celiz 10, Navales 7, Clavel 6, Berani 6, Cabill 4, Adams 2, Romaguera 2.

Quarters: 19-21, 32-36, 54-54, 86-72.

GUERRERO BRANDY NBC NAT'L TOURNAMENT

STANDINGS	W	L
North Division		
Bacchus/Harbour	5	2
Forward Taguig	4	2
Batang Tagaytay	4	3
Spring-P'naque	2	3
Pangasinan	2	4
Laguna-S. Rosa	0	6
South Division		
Ozamiz Cotta	5	0
Iligan Crusaders	6	3
North Cotabato	4	3
Pagadian	4	3
Valencia	2	5
Iloilo Warriors	1	4

MLP, Davao booters hot picks

SAN CARLOS CITY—Muntinlupa-Parañaque-Las Piñas coach Ed Nierras has been gambling on a different starting 11 in three games. And the ploy has been working wonders.

"We have a deep bench and our players are very young," said Nierras, who hopes that altering his roster anew in today's semifinal against Negros Oriental will give them the edge in the 1st PFF-National Under-17 Girls' Football Championships here. "The girls have been playing better with every game."

GAMES TODAY
(SJRI Field)
8 a.m.—Davao vs Iloilo
2:30 p.m.—MPL vs Negros Oriental

With 12-year-old wonder girl Cristina de los Reyes stepping up for the injured April Cuena, the MPL selection has created a stir not only for its looks but for its cohesive play.

De los Reyes has scored four goals so far as MPL captured the first semifinal berth in Group C following victories against Cagayan de Oro and Rizal.

Davao goes into the other semifinal match as the odds-on favorite against Iloilo in this tourney sponsored by Petron, Red Ribbon and 2Go and Solar Sports' Sports Plus.

"We expect to win," Davao coach Julio Orcasitas said. "Our advantage is we have a healthy team." Cedelf P. Tupas, PDI Visayas Bureau

Toyota Otis takes No. 9 for solo lead

TOYOTA OTIS LEANED ON A STRONG FINISH to hold off the Granny Goose Tortillos, 73-64, taking the solo lead for the first time with its third straight win in the 2006 PBL Unity Cup yesterday at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque.

JV Casio and Aaron Aban joined hands in a 6-0 run that finally put away the Snackmasters, 70-62, only 68 ticks left.

With the win, the Sparks improved to 9-3 and now need only to win one of their last two games to claim one of two outright semis berths.

The Snackmasters slipped to 6-6, their bid for an automatic semis bid now in peril.

In the other match, TeleTech bucked another collapse and tripped Hapee-PCU, 76-72, to keep its flickering quarterfinals hopes alive.

The Titans squandered a huge 12-point lead late in the third period but managed to hang tough to notch their third win in 12 games.

"We complimented our solid defense with our good shooting," said coach Jerry Codifera.

But it's going to be a tall order for the Titans to advance to the next round.

They need to beat Rain or Shine on Saturday and then Harbour Centre next week while also hoping the Portmasters lose all their three matches.

The same thing goes for the Teethmasters,

who suffered their sixth straight loss for a 3-9 record. In their case, they must also hurdle their last two games, including against Magnolia Ice Cream. They must also hope that the Spinners will drop their two other games. Both the Port Masters and Spinners tote 5-6 records.

The Teethmasters managed to knot the count at 70-all after a long and hard chase starting in the third quarter. But the Titans stood up to the challenge as Francis Mercado came through with a clutch basket and Axel Doruelo hit two free throws with 23 seconds remaining.

The scores:

TELETECH 76—Mercado 16, Geling 13, Villamin 13, Doruelo 8, Capus 8, Tang 5, Mendoza 4, Latoreno 4, Magdado 3, Estrada 2, Sierra 0, Tolentino 0.

HAPEE-PCU 72—Bucio 16, Castro 13, Moreno 12, Espinas 11, Solls 8, Belga 6, Sanz 4, Razcon 2, Gonzales 0.

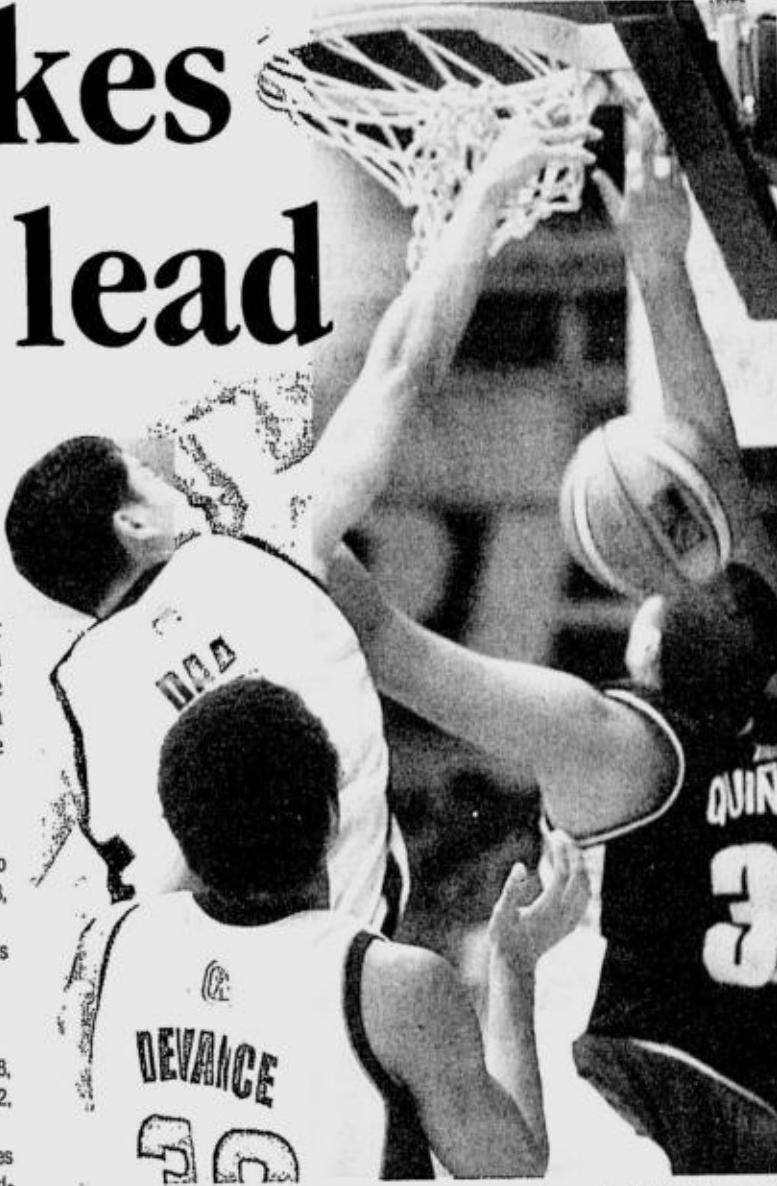
Quarters: 11-13, 35-29, 56-51, 76-72.

Second Game

TOYOTA OTIS 73—Devance 17, Casio 11, Aban 11, Daa 8, Coronel 6, Alcaraz 5, Andaya 4, Fajardo 3, Rodriguez 2, Oreta 2, Larong 2, Bautista 2, Aldave 0, Batuyot 0, Cabahug 0.

GRANNY GOOSE 64—Cruz 14, Latonio 10, Alfad 8, Ibanes 8, Grijaldo 7, Dela Peña 6, Quiñahan 4, Santos 3, David 2, Saldanha 2, Abalon 0, Ferrer 0, Concha 0.

Quarters: 21-17, 39-30, 57-44, 73-64.



TOYOTA OTIS' Dennis Daa swats away an undergoal stab by Granny Goose big man JR Quiñahan.

JIM GUIAO/PUNZALAN

Cossack Vodka riders could pull off Tour surprise

YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED BUT NOT wanting in heart and talent, the Cossack Vodka riders get going in the Tanduay Padyak Pinoy 2006 bikathon starting today expecting to give the event's big guns a run for their money.

"I have young riders, but they cannot be taken for granted," warned two-time Tour ng Pilipinas champ Renato Dolosa, who will coach the Cossack team in the eight-day spectacle kicking off today from Quezon City to Cabanatuan City.

With a team that includes six rookies, Dolosa still entertains hopes of a grand achievement for Cossack. No team has a distinct edge in the Tour, according to observers.

Dolosa, winner of the Tour in 1992 and 1995, said he won't be surprised if one of his boys—his team has an average age of 21—contend in the individual race.

Renato Sambrano, last year's top rookie, captains Dolosa's squad with Michael Reyes, a member of the champion Colt 45 team, as his assistant. They are the only ones with prior Tour experience.

National junior champion Irish Valenzuela, Leonel Dimaano, Roberto Torres, Nilo Jasul, Edgardo Ballecer and Eli Camarino will be marking their debut this year.

Ballecer was a former winner of the Tour ng Nueva Vizcaya, while Camarino, the oldest at 28, has been campaigning in races most of his life.



ABDON: Biggest victory

Abdon humbles Bunyi in nat'l age group golf

JOHN KIER ABDON OUTDUELLED THE big-hitting Gino Bunyi, 6 and 5, for the boys' Class A crown yesterday as the favorites lived up to expectations in the DHL-WWWExpress national age-group championships at the Villamor Golf Club course.

Abdon, just one up after the morning round of the scheduled 36-hole final, pounced on the faltering Bunyi in the third nine to stretch his lead to four en route to his biggest victory yet.

Baguio bet James Chun gate-crashed the party of the Big City bets when he turned back Chepe Dulay, 3 and 2, in their showdown for the boys' Class B crown of the tourney orga-

nized for DHL-WWWExpress by the National Golf Association of the Philippines and the Juニア Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

Bino dela Paz and Miggy Yee pulled off easy wins in boys' Class C and Class D, respectively.

Dela Paz made short work of Lloyd Go, 5 and 3, while Yee stamped his class on RJ Tallud, 6 and 5.

Pervailing in the girls' division were Chihiro Ikeda, Regina de Guzman, Maan Legaspi and Felicia Medalla.

Winners received their trophies from DHL-WWWExpress president Joe Feliciano and Gerry Handog of Jungolf Foundation.

Briones leads Team Ellie to SM badminton title

BRYAN RAFAEL BRIONES AND MICAH EZRA Mijares captured the 6-and-under category and powered Team Ellie to the overall title in the recent SM Storyland Junior Badminton Camp Tournament at the SM Southmall in Las Piñas.

Briones, adjudged as the most promising player among boys, and Mijares beat John Eldrich Lucio and Alyssa Joy Nañola in the finals.

Team Ellie scored a clean sweep of all

four divisions disputed with Jerico Roel-Chaleyreene de Guzman taking the 7-8 age group, Alyssa Rubio-Marie Jan Abigail Cotaco topping the 9-10 class and Joshua Rafael Cruz-Harlene Tabun ruling the 11-12 division in the tourney which followed a weekend clinic conducted by former national team players.

The SM Storyland Camp, held in partnership with SM Storyland and backed by Kimoni Phils., Dunlop, Unilever, Se-

lecta and Gerflor Taraflex, resumes this weekend with the clinic for the north side at SM Fairview. Top graduates will qualify for the tournament on May 21. For inquiries, call 8000614 or 9380506.

Bagging runner-up honors were Jon Eldrich Lucido-Alyssa Joy Nañola (6-under), Reynaldo Antoine Opiana-Alanisa Angela Balois (7-8), Joseph Nari Biola-Marie Christina de Vera (9-10) and Aileen Chavez-Erica Bianca Manalili (11-12).

Today, clan members remain regulars of Seattle's neighborhood cage leagues, either as players or coaches.

Sometimes, Lara Mae joined the boys for a few three-on-three matches. But it was not the game that fired her interest, rather it was the whirl of errands before the start of a league, bush or major.

She began to explore the business side of basketball in high school as an unpaid volunteer of a now defunct Seattle women's basketball team.

In college she majored in business with emphasis on marketing to gain academic foothold on her profession of choice. After graduating from the Louisiana State University, she stayed at her alma mater to work on marketing the school to prospective students, alumni and the media.

She took a respite to work outside her box, dabbling in fashion and radio. But in no time she went back to marketing, this time making the NBA's developmental league known to the world.

The rest is not yet history, as far as Lara Mae is concerned. She has higher targets to shoot for.

To open doors of opportunity, the Bakersfield Jam president and general manager has a tip for aspiring executives out there: "Talk to people you meet in conferences, parties, everywhere. Net work, network and network," she says.

Right at the moment, she has hit the ground running for the Jam.

"I am both excited and grateful for this opportunity to run the Bakersfield Jam as a model NBA-D-League operation," she says.

"I am committed, like the Jam ownership, to offer a quality professional basketball product and family fun at affordable prices. The Jam's commitment to the Bakersfield community will be unparalleled."

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CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Inigo

in Europe awash with cash, the Philippines is not a rich country.

TENNIS Hero of Yesteryear: In the late 1940s and until the 1950s, Felicísimo "Totoy" Ampon was the country's most dominant player. Cool, cunning and calculated, the 5-foot-3 Ampon left large footprints on the sporting scene not only because he beat the best players of his time, but also because of his sportsmanship, honesty and fair play. He was named the first Athlete of the Year of the Philippine Sportswriters Association in 1950 and, just a few years ago, was voted by the PSA as one of five RP Athletes of the Century.

During his heyday, Ampon was considered by both local and foreign media as the greatest tennis player in the world when wet but very slippery when dry. It is on this surface where Ampon won the 1950 Pan-American tennis crown, beating No. 3 seed Tom Brown in four nerve-frazzling sets. Ampon also saw action in Europe, playing at the fabled Wimbledon in London and the French Open at the Roland Garros courts in Paris.

Ampon died in the US where he and his family migrated after his retirement.

Ampon started his tennis career at the age of 16. An accounting major at the Far Eastern University, Ampon proudly carried the green-and-gold colors of his school during his prime and rose to tennis greatness playing for the Philippine Davis Cup team from 1939 to 1968, the longest in living memory. He highlighted his Davis Cup campaign by leading the Philippines' 3-1 victory over India in the 1964 Asian zone. Then already 44, Ampon swept his singles matches against India's top-ranked Premjith Lall and Jorideep Mukherjee. And even though India won the doubles, Ampon's young partner, Johnny Jose, sealed the series by winning his singles assignment against Lall.

His favorite playing surface is Antuka, a baked clay court which is a good court when wet but very slippery when dry. It is on this surface where Ampon won the 1950 Pan-American tennis crown, beating No. 3 seed Tom Brown in four nerve-frazzling sets. Ampon also saw action in Europe, playing at the fabled Wimbledon in London and the French Open at the Roland Garros courts in Paris.

Ampon died in the US where he and his family migrated after his retirement.

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2006

Federer struggles past rival

ROME—NO. 1 ROGER FEDERER AND NO. 2 Rafael Nadal stayed on course for another final showdown with two-set victories over Italians in the second round of the Rome Masters on Wednesday.

Federer was tested by wild card Potito Starace before closing it, 6-3, 7-6 (2), and defending champion Nadal eased past Filippo Volandri, 6-1, 6-2, for his 49th straight win on clay.

"It's always hard to play local heroes, especially here in Italy," said Federer, mentioning previous matches at Foro Italico against Volandri and Andrea Gaudenzi.

Starace broke Federer twice in the second set and the Swiss needed seven game points to hold for 6-5. He saved his best tennis for the tiebreak though, serving his first ace of the match on the opening point, followed by a crosscourt backhand to end the match.

"You really have to beat him. He's not going to beat himself," said Federer, who began his day by meeting Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican during the pope's weekly general audience.

Nadal won the first set against Volandri in 26 minutes. At 1-2 in the second, he saved three break points and reeled off the last five games. AP

Refs to call World Cup really tight

LONDON—PLAYERS BEWARE, YOUR World Cup could be over almost as soon as it begins.

The 23 referees at the tournament in Germany have been instructed to harshly deal with the foul play that has become the scourge of modern soccer. Elbowing, reckless fouls and other violent conduct will result in a red card, disciplinary action and missed matches.

Getting yellow cards also is going to be easier: Unsportsmanlike conduct such as shirt pulling, holding opponents and deliberately stopping opposing players will result in automatic yellows.

FIFA is trying to rid soccer of the bad habits that are ruining many games.

Soccer's decision makers approved modifications to rules that come into effect July 1, but decided the changes will be brought forward to introduce them at the June 9 tournament kickoff. AP

Jao in flawless Shell start

DEFENDING CHAMPION Jolo Jao proved he's still the country's best road rider when he swept both Expert division races during the kickoff of the 2006 Shell Advance-San Mig Coffee Superbikes Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently.

Jao pulled off his victory double at the expense of his perennial rival Benjo Mendoza with Roderick Chua placing third in both 10-lap races.

He clocked 15 minutes 49.458 seconds in top-



JAO: Seeking No. 10

ping the morning race, finishing 7.882 seconds ahead of Mendoza. Jao won by 4.270 seconds in the second race.

Jao, eyeing his 10th crown this season, was even more unforgiving in the afternoon, improving his earlier winning time with a 15:47.888 clocking after setting the day's fastest lap time of 1:42.964.

Wacky del Rosario and John Diego checked in fourth and fifth, respectively.

Sharing honors with Jao was Aries Padiemos, who also scored a sweep in the Sub 400 cc division of this event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Safety and Sport Association (NAMSSA) and sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, San Mig Coffee, Casino Filipino, Yokohama, Denso, Arai and Shoei.

Taekwondo tilt slated

ACTION IN SM SUMMER SPORTS TOUR resumes today with the staging of taekwondo competitions as Jins in various age divisions battle for supremacy at SM Southmall in Las Piñas. Taekwondo is the featured discipline in a series of sports events lined up by SM chain of malls in its effort to help contribute to the country's sports programs. It has so far been staged at 12 SM malls. Among the events to be disputed are the junior men's and women's division (novice and advance) and grade school boys and girls (novice and advance). Also on tap in the summer schedule are wushu demo and competitions, football exhibition games and its centerpiece JVC Open junior badminton championships. The football fun games actually resumed at SM San Lazaro yesterday and will end today.

Pasay derby today

MORE THAN 60 MATCHES WILL SPICE UP ANOTHER exciting edition of the Pasay Cockpit Cocks Association (PCCA) 4-cock derby series today at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. This will be the seventh of eight derbys which are the basis in selecting the 2006 PCCA Cocker of the Year. Main sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. It's still a wide open battle among the top contenders in this event sponsored mainly by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Up next on May 19 at Pasay Cockpit is the RS Fairview 4-cock derby of Roger Segismundo, who confirmed no less than 40 sure entries. For additional info, please call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

Chess at SCOOP

CHESS AND SOFTBALL ARE THE MAIN TOPICS in today's session of the Sports Communicators Organization of the Philippines (SCOOP) at the Kamayan Padre Faura.

Heat, Clippers rip series foes

MIAMI—THE MIAMI HEAT STORMED TO AN EARLY LEAD over the New Jersey Nets and never looked back on Wednesday, rolling up a 111-89 win to even their best-of-seven Eastern Conference playoff series at 1-1.

Dwyane Wade scored 31 points, including 17 in the first quarter, while Shaquille O'Neal had 21 as Miami jumped out to a 25-4 lead and were never threatened.

Miami had fallen behind early in Game 1 and never recovered but set a completely different tone in Game 2, taking a 41-19 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

The series now moves to New Jersey for games three and four on Friday and Sunday.

"We played probably the best quarter of the year," Miami coach Pat Riley told reporters. "We need ed it."

Jason Williams added 14 points for the Heat, who shot 53 percent from the field, and Udonis Haslem added 11 points and hauled down 10 rebounds.

"We didn't want to have two games in a row like that," O'Neal told reporters.

Vince Carter led New Jersey with 22 points, but the Nets shot just 40 percent and appeared out of synch right from the start of the game.

Richard Jefferson shook off an ankle injury he suffered in Game 1 to score 16 points for New Jersey, while Jason Kidd added 15 points.

"Their overall intent was greater and sharper than ours," New Jersey coach Lawrence Frank said.

In Phoenix, Elton Brand scored 27 points to

lead the Los Angeles Clippers to a 122-97 win over the Suns.

The best-of-seven Western Conference series is tied 1-1, with games three and four in Los Angeles on Friday and Sunday.

Cuttino Mobley and Sam Cassell added 23 points for the Clippers, who led 65-51 at the half en route to an impressive offensive performance.

Raja Bell led Phoenix with 20 points, while Leandro Barbosa scored 18 points and Steve Nash had 14 points and eight assists.

The Clippers won by abandoning the idea of trying to keep pace with the running, gunning Suns and instead flexing their muscles.

Sparked by Cassell, the Clippers raced to a 20-6 lead in the first six minutes and never looked back. They led by double digits for all but 26 seconds thereafter, and their largest lead was the final score.

Brand and Chris Kaman—who was neutralized by the quick pace of Game One—had Phoenix physically intimidated, particularly in the first half.

Before the break, the Clippers scored on virtually every possession. Reuters, AFP



MIAMI center Shaquille O'Neal emphatically swats the ball away while defending the basket.

REUTERS

AP

SPORTS

Alcantara nails 2 titles in Sri Lanka

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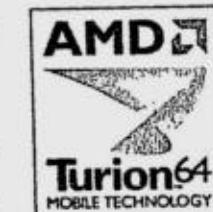
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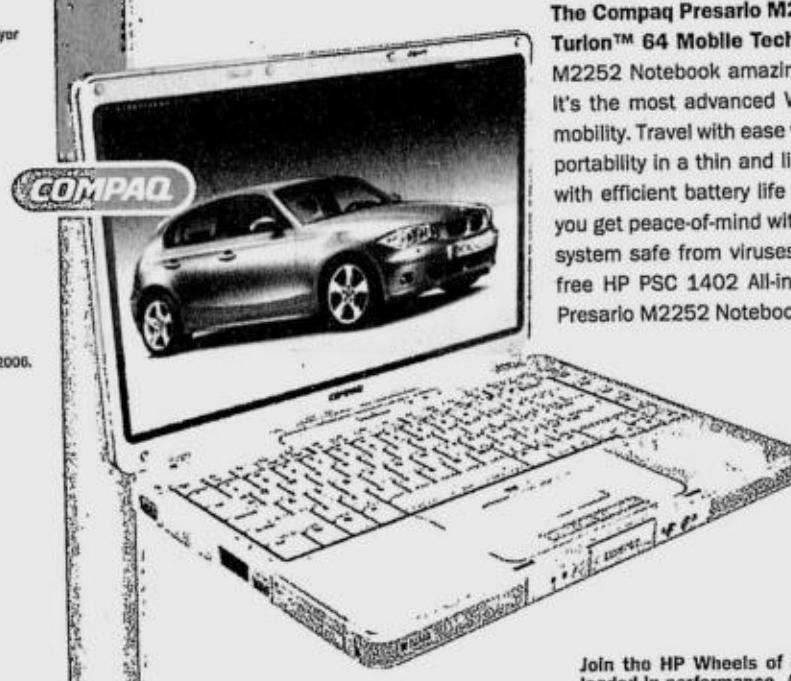
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0790, Series of 2006.

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA—Top seed Francis Casey Alcantara of the Philippines seized the singles and doubles titles in the Asian 14-Under Series Week 1 at the Sri Lanka Tennis Association Tennis Center last Sunday.

Alcantara, the 14-year-old rising star of RP tennis from Malaybalay City, Bukidnon, worked behind a solid forehand to win the singles over Japan's Kahohei Kamono, 7-5, 6-4, before teaming up with Malaysia's Juan Los Santos to take the doubles title over India's Aarjay Hansoti and Vishwesh Sinha, 6-0, 2-6, 6-2.

"I tried to be consistent with my



ALCANTARA

game," said Alcantara, a high school sophomore at Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro.

Alcantara, now ranked No. 1 14-under player by the Asian Tennis Federation, also won the singles title in the first leg and the doubles crown in the second leg of the Group 1 Asian Championships held in Bangkok last month.

The only Filipino in the ITF Team that will play in the Young Stars Tour in Europe in July, Alcantara also ruled the ATP 14-Under Series Masters in Melbourne, Australia, last year.

He will see action in the World Juniors tilt in Indonesia next week.

Warriors make Final 4

TALISAY CITY—THE TOYOTA-Iloilo Warriors claimed the fourth and final spot in the Visayas Division semifinals of the ML Kwarto Padala Mindanao Visayas Basketball Association (MVBA) First Conference last Tuesday by nipping the West Negros College Mustangs, 74-70, on the road at the Talisay City Gym.

The IBL-backed Warriors' win gave them an unassailable two-game lead over the Mustangs in the tourney backed by ML Kwarto Padala, Cokaliong Shipping Lines, Nature's Spring Drinking Water, Molten, Panasonic and Sulpicio Lines.

The National Students champion Mustangs held a six-point lead after three periods.

The scores:

TOYOTA-ILOILO 74—Balgos 20, Se-

STANDINGS	W	L
Visayas Division		
M. Lhuillier-Cebu	8	0
Landmaster-Toledo	5	2
Mantawi Traders	3	4
Toyota-Iloilo Warriors	2	5
West Negros College	0	7
Mindanao Division		
Semifinals Best-of-3		
No. 1 seed Iligan Archangels tied with No. 4 Montaña-Davao, 1-1.		
No. 2 PacMan-GenSan tied with No. 3 Pryce Pharma-MisOr, 1-1.		

nierz 19, Bautista 10, Sencil 7, Sanz 5, Sincio 5, Leonilda 2, Bayhon 2.

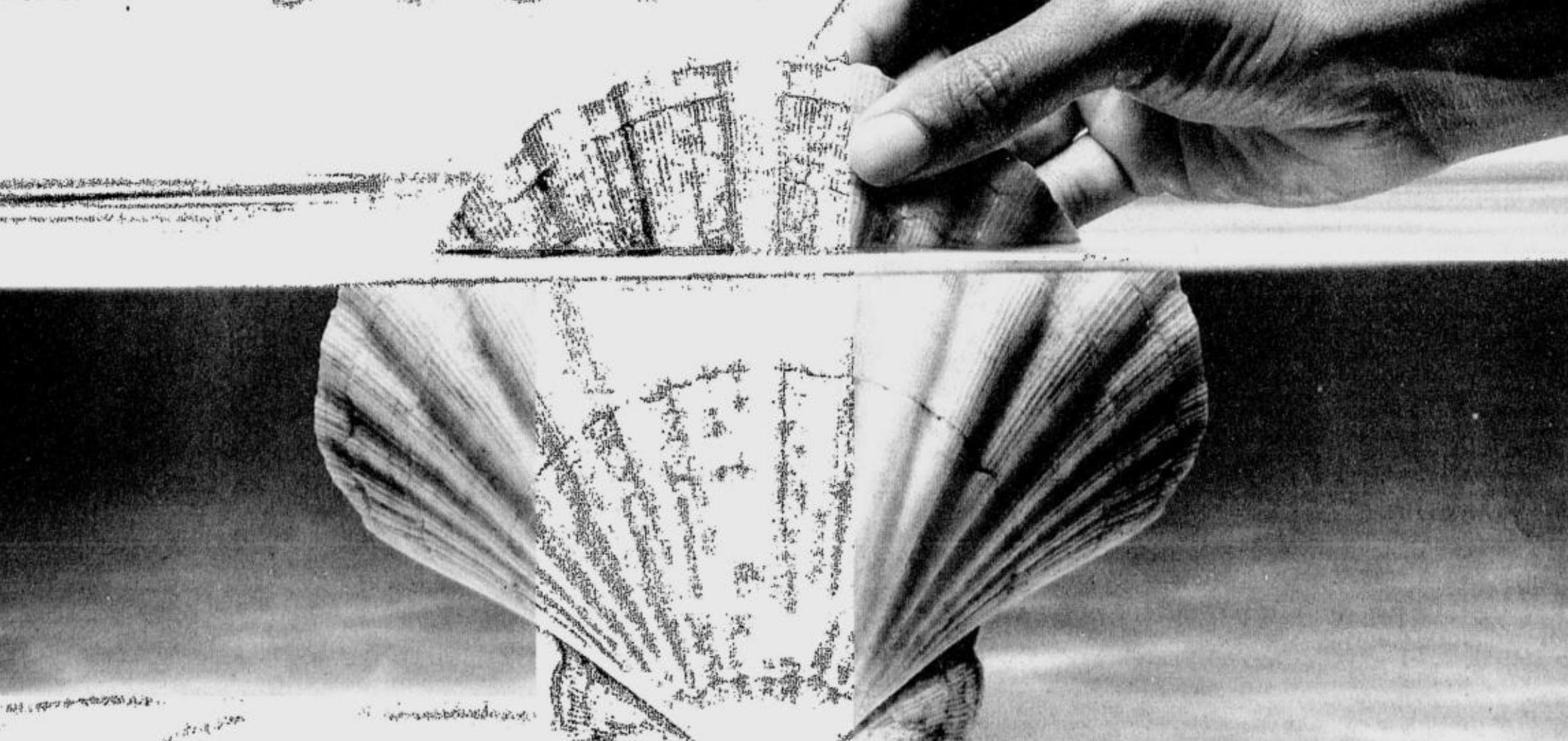
WEST NEGROS 70—Tizon 24, Olarte 15, Espiritu 8, Deocadis 8, Millarin 7, Vergara 4, Laurenio 4, Dapar 2.

Quarters: 21-21, 37-35, 50-56, 74-70

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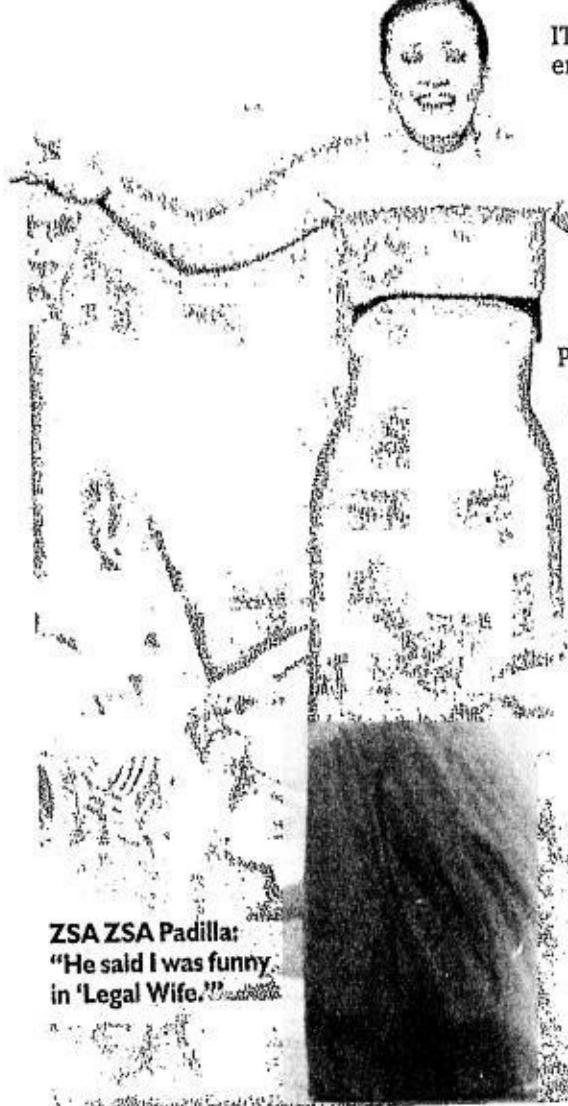
ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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Zsazsa: Dolphy II?

By Bayani San Diego Jr.



ZSA ZSA Padilla:
"He said I was funny,
in 'Legal Wife.'"

IT HASN'T BEEN LOST ON CONCERT-GOERS: Zsazsa Padilla has a flair for comedy.

Onstage, Zsazsa debunks her sultry chanteuse image with wacky one-liners and quick quips.

And then she won Best Actress in the last Metro Manila Film Festival for her comedic turn in "Ako Legal Wife: Mano Po 4."

Is she the next Dolphy? Is she following in the footsteps of the country's Comedy King, who also happens to be her life partner?

"No," she protests when INQUIRER Entertainment brings up the prospect. "I can't imagine... I can't absorb the idea!"

She admits, however, that 17 years of togetherness invariably ends in osmosis.

"I've definitely imbibed his humor," she says.

Dolphy himself thinks Zsazsa is a blast. "When we watched 'Ako Legal Wife,' he told me I was funny," she recalls. "Before that premiere night, I kept asking him: 'What if the people don't laugh?' I held his hand throughout the screening. He was so cool. He said, 'Don't worry.'"

She believes they complement one another. "He's very laid-back. I'm the worrier. If someone in the family coughs, I'm already thinking: Could it be cancer? Should we go to the hospital?"

The topic of weddings makes Zsazsa

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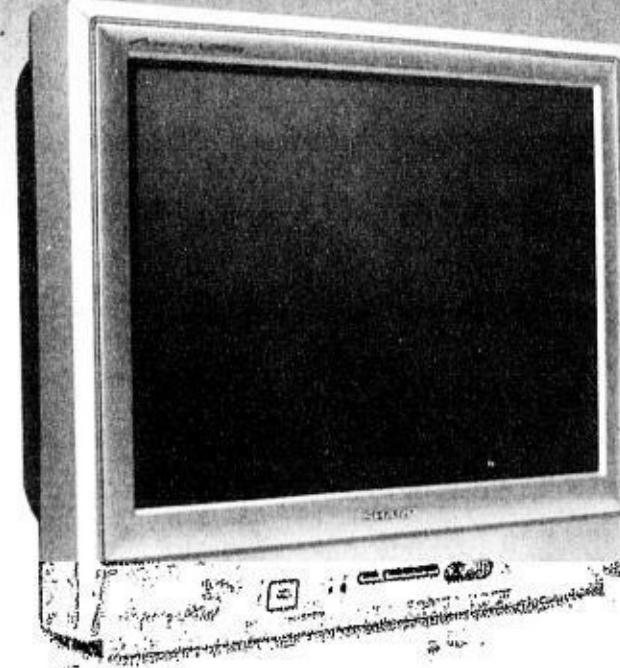
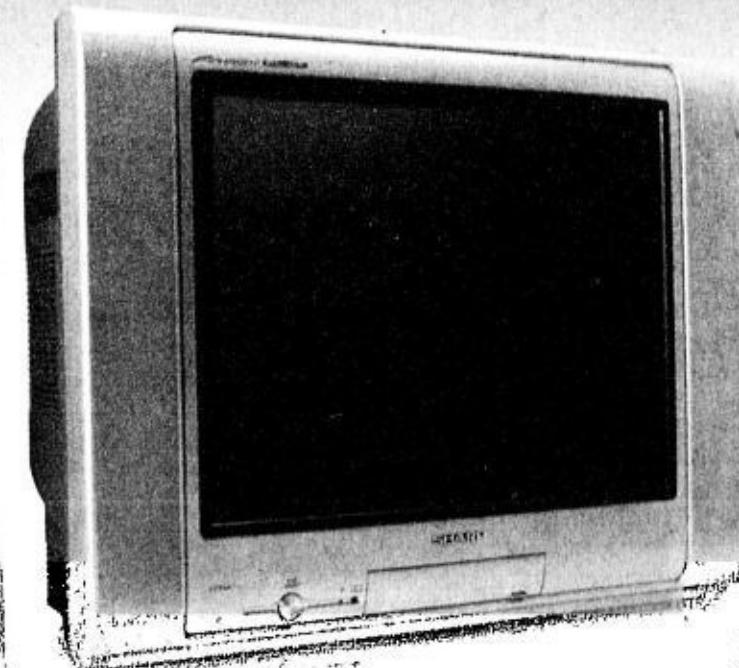
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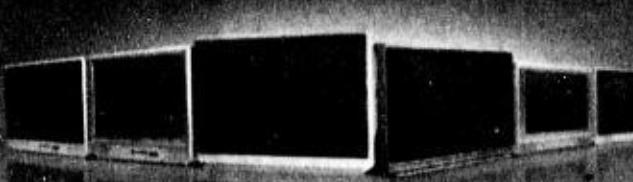
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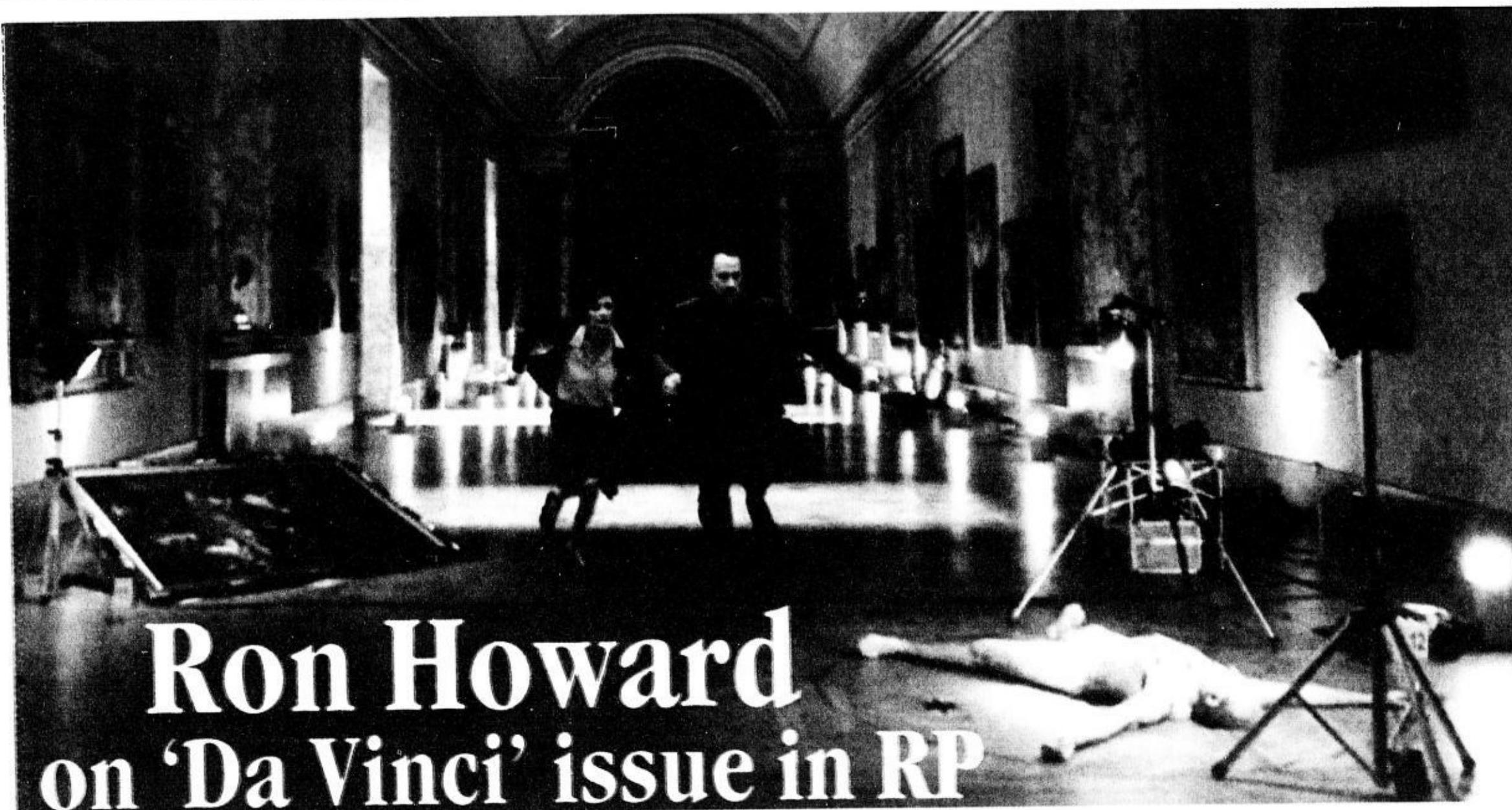
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ENTERTAINMENT



Ron Howard on 'Da Vinci' issue in RP

...and INQUIRER Entertainment gets a privileged peek at this year's most controversial movie

LOS ANGELES—INQUIRER GOT an exclusive peek at this year's most controversial and most talked about movie, the adaptation of Dan Brown's bestseller, "The Da Vinci Code."

Director Ron Howard himself introduced the 35-minute footage to us last Monday morning at the Backstage Theatre inside Sony Pictures Studios. The filmmaker behind the 2001 Oscar and Golden Globe Best Picture Award winner, "A Beautiful Mind," explained that he was still editing "The Da Vinci Code" for its opening at Cannes this month so he could only show a portion to us. "I wanted you to have a feel of the movie," he said.

What was shown to us by the former child actor was footage of the major plot scenes in sequence. The most gripping scenes involved a nude Paul Bettany, as Silas, the albino monk flagellating himself. The 60 million folks on this earth who have read Dan Brown's suspenseful novel about how a murder at the Louvre triggers exciting events dealing with art and religion know that Tom Hanks plays Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon.

The rest of the formidable international cast includes Audrey Tautou (Sophie Neveu), Ian McKellen (Sir Leigh Teabing), Jean Reno (Bezu Fache) and Alfred Molina (Bishop Aringarosa).

After the screening and a quick break, Ron came back to the theater for a press con. We got to ask the filmmaker to comment about the controversy that the film is stirring in the Philippines. We just learned that the Sangguniang Panglunsod of Lucena approved a resolution last May 4 saying it is "strongly against the showing and presentation of 'The Da Vinci Code' in all cinemas or theaters within the territorial jurisdiction of the city of Lucena." We also read that Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles also called for the ban of the film.

Below are excerpts of our press con with Ron.

Some members of Opus Dei, local governments and conservative religious groups in the Philippines are reportedly calling for a ban on "The Da Vinci Code." Can you comment on this?

I'm a filmmaker, a storyteller—and so freedom of artistic expression is at the center of my whole, my reason to exist. I fully respect and understand any audience member's choice not to see a movie. But to deny other people who may find value in the story the right to see it, that's kind of militant. I don't advocate militancy in enforcing or defending belief systems because I think that leads to oppression, violence and hatred. I wouldn't support or advocate that. Individual choice? Absolutely.

The other thing that I would say is that no one has actually seen the film. I don't have it ready. [Until today] I couldn't even show it to folks like you, whom I'd like to show it to. So the fact is that anyone who is talking about the film—let's be honest—they're utilizing the high profile status of the story and the publicity that's swirling around the movie to make sure their own ideas are heard. That's okay, too, but let's understand as well what that is.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V.
Nepales

Are you glad there is so much controversy surrounding this movie, or is it bothering you?

I have mixed feelings about it because it's not my nature at all to be confrontational, combative or provocative. I chose this story because I thought that many of the ideas in this novel were very thought-provoking and very intriguing. As a storyteller, I thought about it in great detail and decided that it was a great way to take a work of fiction that many people would want to see on film and actually generate discussion and debate. So ultimately, I feel that's a very healthy thing. When fiction stimulates the mind and results in a dialogue between [groups of] people, that's a pure thing.

There were earlier reports that you were trying to tone down the controversial theological points. Were there debates on how faithful the movie should be to the book?

Before the adaptation began, there was a sort of discussion about the theological aspects. I have to say I respect the executives at Sony because they quickly said no. They took my position—that we know what this story is and we understand that some of the ideas are controversial and we're not going to try to mollify the critics. This is a movie, not the book. It will be interesting to see what people think of it. I made some creative choices that are my own. Whether people think that makes it more intense or less intense, will be part of the discussion as well. But we ultimately decided it would be foolish to tone it down.

What about the request to insert a disclaimer that this is a work of fiction?

When you put a disclaimer on a work of fiction, you're sort of removing the fun of it. What you're trying to do is get an audience to suspend disbelief and go along on the ride. As much as I acknowledge that the movie deals with some themes that can be very controversial for some people, I am also trying to serve an audience that really wants to go and lose themselves in a movie and have a great time.

How do you think the movie will fare in predominantly Catholic countries?

We've discovered that the pre-sales in a number of the countries that are predominantly Catholic have been very good. Sales of the book have also been good in those countries. I think that people in

I just came back from Chile which, like the Philippines, is a predominantly Catholic country. Do you think the book and movie will shake people's beliefs? Were you yourself affected? Did you learn something from reading the book or making the film?

First of all, I think we tend to underestimate the intelligence of readers and moviegoers when it comes to something like "The Da Vinci Code"—which is a novel, a work of fiction—and the way they respond to it. People are far more capable of reading a novel or seeing a movie and making some really healthy, constructive decisions themselves as to what is thought-provoking and what isn't, and [what is] part of interesting entertainment.

What I myself have learned, I am not going to reveal. But... working on this film was sort of a life-chang-

ing experience for me on a lot of levels. Spending that time in Europe, learning about the history and looking back at the story theologically was fascinating. I am not going to tell you my conclusions because that's personal, but it's the kind of story that does create really interesting conversation. What's [useful] to acknowledge is that human beings have not solved all the mysteries of the world. That doesn't take away from our need for faith because some questions will never be answered. [For me] that comes back to a need for faith and that's a pure thing.

There are so many interesting sections in the book and probably in the movie as well. Which scene did you enjoy filming the most?

There are so many fantastic scenes, I am not sure I can limit it to one. But I can limit it to two. The opening sequence was exciting to shoot because we did much of it in the Louvre but also, cinematically it was very important to establish the right tone, the sense of the movie as a thriller, a suspense piece. We achieved an authentic feel by really being in the Louvre and using much of the real artwork. So, directorially, that was a challenge. I really like the way it turned out. It's also a scene that's well remembered from the book. I wanted to capture that spirit as much as possible for the movie.

The other one is a sequence at Sir Leigh Teabing's (Ian McKellen's character) estate, Chateau de Villeneuve. Here many of the provocative conspiracy theories are presented. It is an important section in the novel. As a director who loves working with great actors, it was a terrific opportunity because here you had a crucial section with Tom Hanks, Audrey Tautou and Ian McKellen all sort of circling each other and debating these wild ideas that are really at the center of our story's mystery.

What kind of research did you do? In what sections did you adhere most closely to the book?

I didn't speak with any Opus Dei members but I did a great deal of research about virtually many of the aspects of the movie. [As for] identifying how similar it is to the novel, I decline to do that because part of the fun for people who have read the novel is going to see for themselves what they think of the movie adaptation. It's very frustrating when you have a novel of this quality, a story that's interesting, because it's a big book.

So, I did

have to make

some creative decisions and probably somewhere down the line, some of the scenes that one might remember from the book that didn't make it into our final cut may wind up in a longer version for DVD release. We made those difficult choices to make the film really work and stand on its own as a movie. At the end of the day, this is a movie experience. It's not just someone reading the novel.

Did you try to find new codes and symbols in the paintings of Da Vinci?

I met with a couple of art historians who explained to me the common symbolism used particularly by the Renaissance painters. That was really interesting. When I was filming at the Louvre and I had a moment to pause, I could read more into the paintings because I did understand the hidden language and it was rewarding. It was great. It also gave me a headache (laughter).

I don't think it has changed the way I look at art; I still look at art in an emotional way rather than look for subtle communications. One thing that I did is visually build some codes into the movie. I don't want to give clues away and it's going to be easier for people to find it once they have the DVD and they can freeze the frames. But we built in some symbols into some of the compositions and I did them as a kind of a game. I worked them out with Dan Brown. It was really fun but I also did it because, as a director, I wanted another reason to frame certain images in a slightly unusual way because this story takes place in a very short period of time.

Are you aware of the industries that have sprung up around the whole "Da Vinci Code" phenomenon?

Yes. Very early on, within weeks after deciding that I wanted to do the movie, Brian Grazer, my producing partner at Imagine, Alida Goldsmith, the writer, and I went on the "Da Vinci Code" tour in London and in Paris. The person giving the tour didn't know that we were working on the film and that we had already read the novel three or four times each. He kept describing everything about the story in great detail and at a certain point we said, we really know

the story. Just drive us to the places and talk about the history. It was great—this blending of real places, verifiable facts with these conspiracy theories that made the novel popular.

During filming, I got to virtually live the Da Vinci Code Tour for about four or five months and it was fun and eye-opening. You do

learn a lot about your world.

You have directed Tom several times. How is your collaboration with him at this stage in your lives?

Early on, when I seriously began considering doing the movie, Tom gave me a call and said, "Do you want to talk about 'The Da Vinci Code'?" He had read it and really liked it. He was intrigued about playing a career academic and man of that [level of] intellect. He had a real instant sense of the character that I thought was absolutely authentic. I really wanted authenticity in the characters to counterbalance the strangeness of the story. One of the things that he kept saying was, "Let's get as much of the book into the movie as possible." He was a big advocate of that. He has a fantastic bullshit detector. He wants to try to find the truth in his character and present it as much as possible so he was never interested in trying to turn it into something that it wasn't—some kind of a superhero, super sleuth of a role. He approached it in a kind of Hitchcockian way. He's an Everyman who is not used to being exposed to violence, not used to being threatened himself but used to solving things with his mind, not his physicality. He is suddenly thrown into a very dangerous situation.

I can talk about two things that we did with the Langdon character that won't hurt your experience when seeing the film. One is that, while "Angels and Demons" precedes "The Da Vinci Code," in our movie version that hasn't happened. So Langdon has never been involved in a case before. Our movie Langdon is truly is an innocent in terms of never having been involved in a criminal investigation. The other thing was that we made Langdon a bit more of a skeptic so that he is debating and questioning a lot of the clues that are coming up. It makes him again a little more like an audience member; somebody that the audience can relate to because he's seeing a lot of possibilities all the time. That's the way Tom's mind works. Frankly, if Tom Hanks did not become an actor, I am really certain that he would have become a high-profile academic. He loves history. He loves that kind of problem-solving. He's fascinated by the world and the way it works, loves to talk and think about it, loves to consider all the possibilities so he took to this character really well.

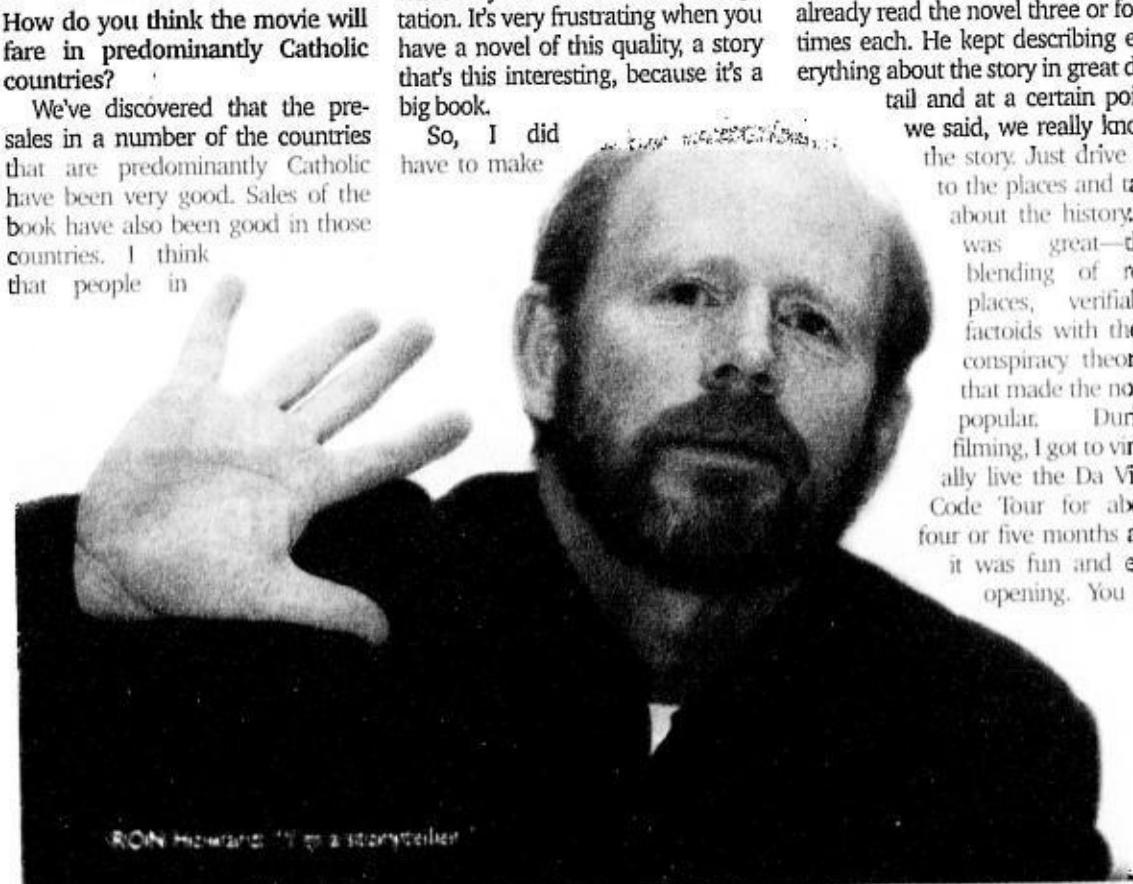
Are you making "Angels and Demons" (another novel by Dan Brown) later on?

We have no immediate plans to do "Angels and Demons." There's a great character in that one. We have so many what-ifs in this movie that I don't want to get into the what-ifs of that one (laughter). We'll face those production problems as they come.

Any plans to act again?

No. I have so many films that I want to make and not enough time to make them. So I don't have any plans to act.

(E-mail the columnist at rynepales_5585@yahoo.com.)



RON HOWARD BY RYNEPALES

FRIDAY,
MAY 12, 2006

ENTERTAINMENT

A2-3



'Da Vinci' defender

From Jojo Iligan (joeyili-gan05171966@yahoo.com):
AN ANTI-PORNOGRAPHY group yesterday said it will file a complaint today against the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board for allowing the importation of the film "The Da Vinci Code."

The Philippine Alliance Against Pornography said the film violates Presidential Decree 1986 which bars the MTRCB from importing any film that are deemed libelous or defamatory to the good name and reputation of any person, whether living or dead.

Can't these idiots do anything worth doing? They are thinking with their other heads! Morons... I hope they all die. Of STD. Any STD will do. Idiots!

Right on the head

From Erik dela Peña (concernedfilipino@gmail.com), Quezon City:
I FEEL THAT NESTOR Torre hit the nail on the head when he noted: "In different ways, most of the five remaining finalists are deserving of victory in terms of talent, so the final decision is likely to be really close, and could depend on the prospective winner's grit and charisma, above all else."

This comes as particularly insightful given that press releases in the Philippine Daily Inquirer regarding the requirements for "Pinoy Idol" have the age limit pegged at 28. Not to be age-ist, but older singers of 28 and 29 can often give younger singers of 16 to 20 a good run for their money in terms of sheer grit and experience. There's no venue on local television for singers in their 30s, and that isn't right, especially since "American Idol" is all about that dream. Given that Taylor Hicks, Mandisa, Bo Bice, and Constantine Maroulis all made the cut at peak ages of 28 and 29 (Hicks at 30), doesn't it seem right to extend the age limit for "Philippine Idol" to 30? It's for this reason that Oprah Winfrey launched her own talent show for singers above 30, and the winner, Lashell Griffin, got a record deal with Sony!

Who's that boy?

From Homer Yulo (homer_d_great@yahoo.com), Tokyo, Japan

YOU HAVE A COLUMN about a child "star" named BJ?... who is he... sikat ba yun? Sana kung mag-feature kayo ng artist sa column nyo yung makakarelate naman kami... at hindi yung kung sino di namin kilala. Yun lang po. That story is not interesting at all. Comment lang to ha so dont be offended.

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10:00AM	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 PG13
2:00PM	POSEIDON PG13
3:00PM	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 PG13
4:00PM	POSEIDON PG13
Premiere	THE WILD GP
5:00PM	THE WILD GP



(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1:00P	POSEIDON
2:00P	M. I. - 3
3:00P	THE WILD
4:00P	M. I. - 3
5:00P	POSEIDON
6:00P	M. I. - 3
7:00P	POSEIDON
8:00P	REINCARNATION
9:00P	SILENT HILL
10:00P	APOL SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR



(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1:00P	POSEIDON
2:00P	M. I. - 3
3:00P	THE WILD
4:00P	M. I. - 3
5:00P	POSEIDON
6:00P	M. I. - 3
7:00P	POSEIDON
8:00P	REINCARNATION
9:00P	SILENT HILL
10:00P	APOL SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR



Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1:00P	RESERVED
2:00P	APOL SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
3:00P	POSEIDON
4:00P	M. I. - 3

Cinema 2000 Recto Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228

1:00P	M. I. - 3
2:00P	THE WILD
3:00P	POSEIDON
4:00P	REINCARNATION

Cinema 2000 SUPER CINERAMA tel 7334228

1:00P	M. I. - 3
2:00P	POSEIDON
3:00P	APOL SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
4:00P	REINCARNATION

Cinema 2000 Blue Wave tel 7334228

Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1:00P	RESERVED
2:00P	APOL SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
3:00P	POSEIDON
4:00P	M. I. - 3

Cinema 2000 Cinema 2000

(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1:00P	M. I. - 3
2:00P	ICE AGE 2 REINCARNATION
3:00P	POSEIDON
4:00P	APOL SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR

Cinema 2000 Cinema 2000

(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1:00P	BANDIDAS
2:00P	APOL SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
3:00P	BANDIDAS
4:00P	RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinema 2000

(Alabang) tel 850.4285, 5433994

1:00P	SILENT HILL
2:00P	APOL SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
3:00P	M. I. - 3
4:00P	POSEIDON

Cinema 2000 Cinema 2000

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1:00P	POSEIDON
2:00P	M. I. - 3
3:00P	APOL SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR

Cinema 2000 Center Mall Cinema

(Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue Baguio City) tel (074) 4449346

1:00P	M. I. - 3
2:00P	POSEIDON
3:00P	SILENT HILL

Cinema 2000 Jade Cinema

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1:00P	M. I. - 3
2:00P	POSEIDON
3:00P	SILENT HILL
4:00P	APOL SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR

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(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1:00P	EIGHT BELOW
2:00P	TRISTAN & ISOLDE

Cinema 2000 Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1:00P	M. I. - 3
2:00P	APOL SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR



Pacific Mall Lucena Cinemagic

Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

M. I. - 3

POSEIDON

RESERVED

RESERVED

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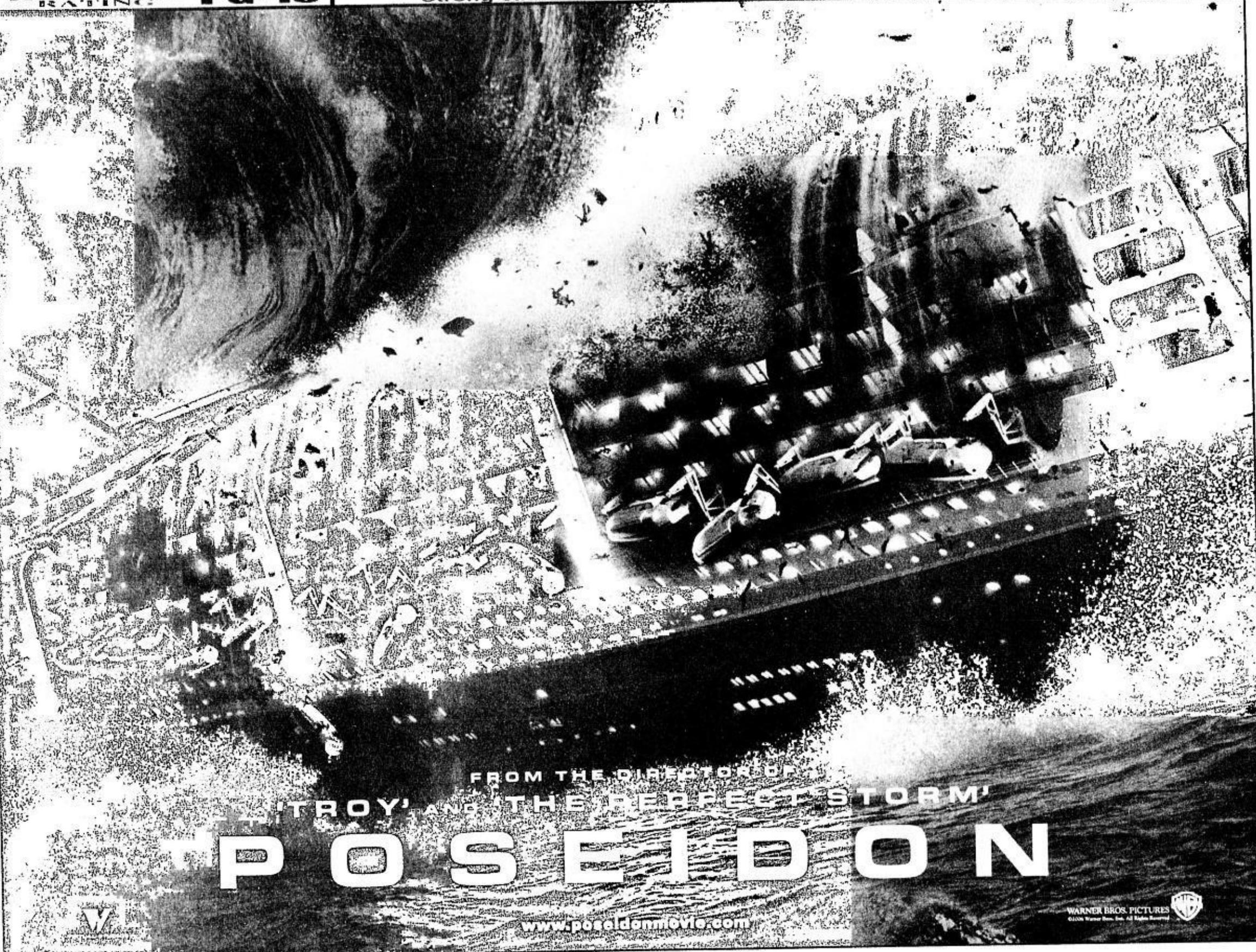
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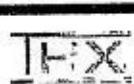
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G4	1 POSEIDON	2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	3 TM POSEIDON 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50 GUARANTEED SEATS	
C1	4 SENTINEL	5 AQUAMARINE	6 POSEIDON	7 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
GB3	1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	2 POSEIDON		
ATC	1 TM MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 TM POSEIDON 1:25, 3:40, 5:55, 8:10, 10:25 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ACC	3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 POSEIDON 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 POSEIDON 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
M2	1 TM POSEIDON	2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3		
	3 POSEIDON	4 AQUAMARINE	5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	
	1 POSEIDON	2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	3 POSEIDON	4 SUBMERGED
	1 POSEIDON	2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3		
	3 REINCARNATION	4 POSEIDON	5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	

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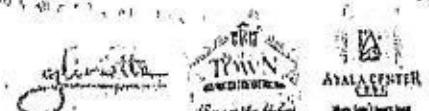
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FRIDAY,
MAY 12, 2006

ENTERTAINMENT

A25

Triple Emmy
winner on HBO

THE NEW YORK TIMES SAYS: "SOMETHING the Lord Made" is supposed to be an uplifting tearjerker about two men who defy racism to accomplish miracles. Fortunately, it's much, much better than that.

Based on a true story in the 1940s, this award-winning movie chronicles the tale of a wealthy white doctor and a poor black laboratory assistant whose unlikely partnership challenged tradition and defied racial boundaries to revolutionize the medical world and become pioneers of cardiac surgery.

Breakthroughs

Emmy and Golden Globe winner Alan Rickman (Professor Snape, "Harry Potter") is a wealthy chief surgeon, Dr. Alfred Blalock, who hires Vivien Thomas (Mos Def, "Monster's Ball")—a bright, young African-American man with big dreams of becoming a doctor—as a laboratory assistant. Thomas' work and medical insights prove priceless to Blalock's practice, and it is soon apparent that Thomas has become more than just a helper. Together, they achieve phenomenal breakthroughs: developing a new process to treat trauma—saving thousands of lives on the frontlines of World War II; and discovering the groundbreaking, miraculous procedure to perform open-heart surgery on "blue babies."

As their work receives international recognition, it is Blalock who has promotions and accolades raining down upon him. Thomas remains unnoticed, unrewarded and preposterously underpaid.

Even Blalock, when speaking of their practice, cannot bring himself to publicly credit the assistant who helped him develop his most important procedures, and gave him instructions in the operating room!

For love

Even so, Thomas stays on for the love of the work, knowing that without a medical degree or the opportunity in the field primarily dominated by the white community, he can only achieve his dreams through Blalock.

"Something the Lord Made" is a remarkable tale of a significant chapter in the history of medicine, boldly addressing issues of the treatment of colored people as equals and challenging the limitations of traditional boundaries.

The emotionally charged performance by Rickman and Def, combined with an outstanding script—written by award-winning duo, Peter Silverman and Robert Caswell—and the assured direction of the highly acclaimed Joseph Sargent ("Warm Springs"), create the winning combination of this winner of three Emmy Awards in 2004 ("Outstanding Made for Television Movie," "Outstanding Cinematography," "Outstanding Single-Camera Picture Editing").

Made by HBO exclusively for HBO, it premieres at 10 tonight on HBO Signature.



MOS Def and Alan Rickman

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THE WILD 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 12:40 / 2:00 / 3:20 / 4:40	POSEIDON 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50	<small>ONLY P138 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249/P219</small>
AQUAMARINE 7:15 / 9:30	SILENT HILL 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40		

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POSEIDON 12:10 / 2:15 / 4:20 / 6:25 / 8:30	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 12:25 / 3:05 / 6:45 / 8:25	AQUAMARINE 12:05 R3 / 1:35 / 3:50 / 6:05 / 8:20
APOLY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR 12:00 R2 / 1:50 / 4:00 / 6:10 / 8:20	SILENT HILL 12:15 / 2:20 / 4:25 / 6:30 / 8:35	<small>DOLBY DIGITAL DD+ SDDS</small>

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GALLERIA

1 POSEIDON • THX 6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

3 REINCARNATION

1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

4 POSEIDON

11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

5 POSEIDON

12:10 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30

6 SLITHER

1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

7 AQUAMARINE

12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

8 SILENT HILL

2:00 4:40 7:20

9 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR

1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

10 SLITHER

1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

536-7809 to 12

1 POSEIDON

11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 10:00

2 SLITHER

12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

3 SILENT HILL

12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

4 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR

12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

6 REINCARNATION

12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 POSEIDON

12:00 2:10 4:20 6:40 9:00

682-8183 • 682-8199

1 SLITHER

1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

11:20 1:50 4:20 6:50 9:15

3 SUBMERGED

1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

4 AQUAMARINE

11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

5 SILENT HILL

1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 POSEIDON

12:10 2:10 4:10 6:10 8:10

7 POSEIDON

11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:10

8 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR

11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

935-3231 / 935-3229-30

NOVALICHES

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

2 POSEIDON

3 SILENT HILL

4 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR

5 POSEIDON

6 SLITHER

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

PIONEER

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

2 POSEIDON

3 RESERVE

4 RESERVE

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

3 REINCARNATION

4 SILENT HILL

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

2 POSEIDON

3 MURDER

4 SLITHER

5 TIGER BLADE

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1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

2 SHE'S THE MAN

3 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR

4 POSEIDON

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

2 SUBMERGED

3 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR

4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

5 POSEIDON

4 RESERVE

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

2 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR

3 SILENT HILL

4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

5 POSEIDON

6 POSEIDON

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

2 THE WILD

3 POSEIDON

4 SLITHER

5 GRANDMA'S BOY

6 THE LAST HOLIDAY

ENTERTAINMENT

What's it all about, Miriam?

IS THAT...? SURE LOOKS LIKE HER!

Miss Universe 1999 first runner-up Miriam Quiambao in the nude? The photos, are there for the world to see in an on-line exhibit on

www.ikestudio.com.

Reader Maria Paz de la Cruz (maria-pazdelacruz@hotmail.com) called our attention to the exhibit.

Dela Paz said the photos "are also in the giveaway calendars for Di Vino, a restaurant in Hong Kong owned by [Miriam's] husband Claudio Rondinelli."

SHANG CINEPLEX

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
MTRCB PG-13
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00 LMF**POSEIDON**
MTRCB PG-13
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 LMF**PREMIERE THEATRE****MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3**
MTRCB PG-13
12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30 LMF**POSEIDON**
MTRCB GP-13
2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 LMF**THE WILD**
MTRCB GP
1:20, 3:15, 5:10, 7:05, 9:00 LMF

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

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Celebrate Mother's Day at the Shang with "The San Miguel Summer Music Festival at the Shangri-La Plaza" hosted by Maestro Ryan Cayabyab at the Grand Alcove, Level 2. THE SAN MIGUEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA SATURDAY, MAY 13, 7 PM. THE SAN MIGUEL MASTER CHORALE WITH THE SAN MIGUEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA SUNDAY, MAY 14, 7 PM.

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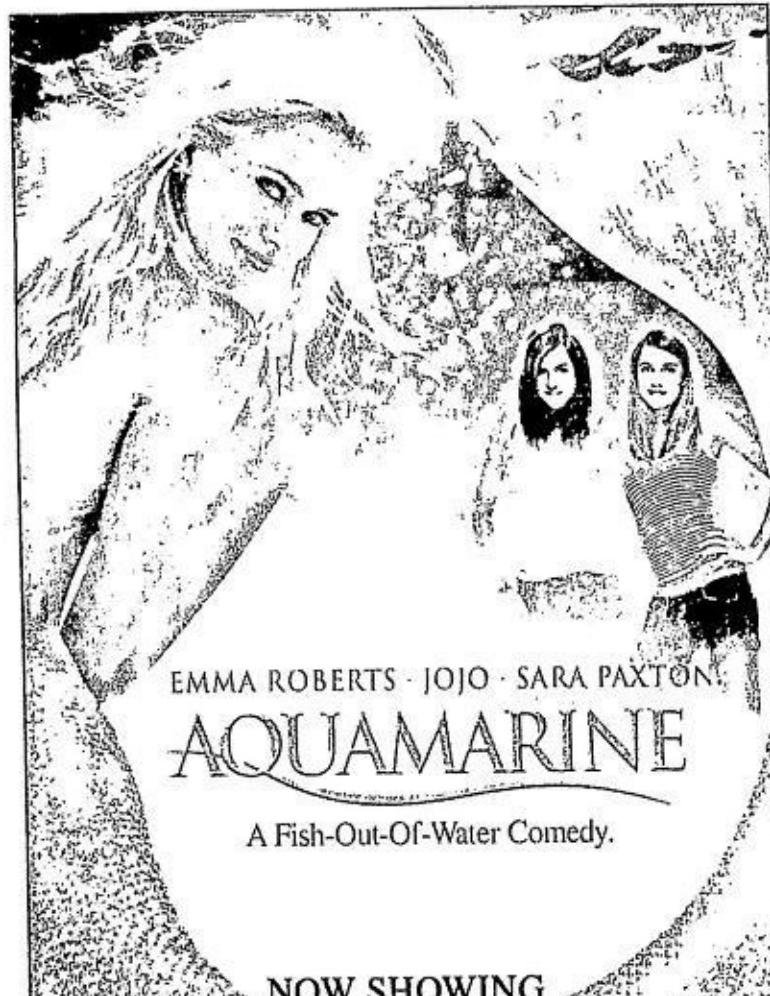
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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
PG13
12:45, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00**POSEIDON**
PG13
1:25, 3:45, 6:05, 8:25**POSEIDON**
PG13
2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00**MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3**
PG13
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00**AQUAMARINE**
G
2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50**POSEIDON**
PG13
12:50, 3:10, 5:30,
7:50, 10:10

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1	POSEIDON	12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:10 PG-13
2	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	1:35, 4:30, 7:25, 10:30 PG-13
3	POSEIDON	12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30 PG-13
4	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:10 PG-13

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THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
NOW SHOWING

1	POSEIDON	12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20 PG13
2	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30 PG13
3	POSEIDON	10:30, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10 PG13
4	POSEIDON	11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50 PG13
5	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	11:45, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 PG13

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MAY 15, 2006	JENNLYN MERCADO	8:00PM

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MAY 10, 11, 12, 13, 2006	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
MAY 28 & 27, 2006	TIPA - NYOY VOLANTE	9:00PM

MAY 28 & 27, 2006

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SILENT HILL

3RD WEEK

MTRCB R-13 RATING CERTIFIED FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP



QUIAMBAA

RP 'Idol' fast-track screenings today

By Marinel R. Cruz

ONLY 100 CONTESTANTS WILL be picked from over thousands expected to audition for the reality-talent search program "Philippine Idol" starting this week, according to ABC 5.

"We expect a big turn-out, so we want to trim down the numbers as early on as possible," Perci Intalan, network vice president for Creative and Entertainment Production, told INQUIRER.

Intalan said the number of contestants will be whittled down from 100 to 60, then 40, 24, and finally 12.

Successful applicants will each be given a pass for the audition proper. ABC 5 and its media partners Radio Mindanao Network and Manila Broadcasting Corp. will provide free transportation, food and lodging to those who will pass the provincial tryouts.

For details, interested parties may log on to www.philippineidol.com.

Zsazsa . . .

From page A2-1

turn serious.

"Even though people keep asking [Dolphy and I when we're getting married], I don't want to feel pressured," she says. "We don't have plans. We believe there was a reason that it didn't push through the last time."

Zsazsa and Dolphy almost tied the knot three years ago.

"Right after I got my annulment [from dentist Modesto Tatlonghari], Dolphy and I underwent personal turmoil," she recalls. "I cannot blurt out the reasons; I hope people leave [that part] to us."

More important

What's more important to her at this point, Zsazsa says, is their relationship.

On the work front, the budding comedienne returns to drama. "I play Rosamia, the Crying Diva," she says, on the new ABS-CBN soap opera "Bituing Walang Ningning," which was based on Nerissa Cabral's komiks novel.

Zsazsa was tapped to play Lavinia in the 1980s movie version starring Sharon Cuneta. "I couldn't have done that," she muses. "I don't have the powers of Cherie Gil."

Speaking of powers, Carlo Vergara's Zsazsa Zaturnnah was another comic-book character offered to the singer-actress.

"I first heard about that when it was Kris Aquino's project," Zsazsa says. Since Kris wasn't available, "it was offered to Rufa Mae Quinto and then to me. Now I heard it's back to Rufa Mae."

When Regal Films producer Lily Monteverde offered the role to her, Zsazsa primed herself, physically and psychologically, to play the gay superheroine. "I worked out. Circuit training. I wanted to prove I could do the stunts, harness and action scenes."

Alas, it wasn't meant to be. "But if you look at the original comic books, Zsazsa Zaturnnah looks like me," she says. "Big hair, thick brows, pouting lips! She also sang 'Hiram'! There's no denying it."

REINCARNATION

NOW SHOWING

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FROM THE CREATORS OF THE BIGGEST ASIAN HORROR MOVIES OF ALL TIME "THE RING", "DARK WATER" AND "THE GRUDGE"

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ENTERTAINMENT



CHRIS BOTTI

Heavyweights fail to upstage trumpeter in new hit album

TRUMPETER CHRIS BOTTI'S LATEST ALBUM, "To Love Again," is a collection (of precious old gems) so amazingly conceptualized and produced, that a romantic frame of mind is not even necessary to appreciate it. Each track stands on its own musical merit, no matter the externals that the listener may bring into the experience.

INQUIRER Entertainment told him so in this exclusive e-mail interview. We could almost see him blush.

"That made my day," he said. "You're constantly trying to... you're always hoping people will like your record. When someone writes something like that—so concise and kinda everything you hope the record would say, it makes me feel all the work [that went into it] was worthwhile. That sounds cliché, but at certain points you're kinda bangin' your head against the wall and [wondering], 'Are people gonna hear this record?' It's hard enough to get people to get actually placed and be present enough to listen. When somebody says this to me that, I feel very, very happy!"

We're the happier for that, actually. Botti is joined here by some heavyweights—Sting ("What Are You Doing The Rest Of Your Life?"), Michael Buble ("Let There Be Love"), Paul Buchanan ("Are You Lonesome Tonight?"), Rosa Passos ("Here's That Rainy Day"), Paula Cole ("My One and Only Love"), Gladys Knight ("Lover Man"), Renee Olstead ("Pennies From Heaven"), Steven Tyler ("Smile").

We doubt that all of them can come to Manila together for a show. But Chris Botti will definitely be here in the last quarter of the year for some performances.

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

"To Love Again" is a brilliant gathering of artists. How did this come about?

We had sort of a big success with the previous CD, "When I Fall In Love." A lot of musicians were anxious to join me in this project, to sing this kind of... beautiful melancholy music. They all knew about it. They knew the arrangers involved.

Who did the "fishing" and convincing?

All the artists on this CD, with the exception of Rosa Passos—whom I do not know but I'm a fan of—I'd previously worked with, and I'm friends with. I just called them up and just basically asked if they wanted to do it and they all said yes.

Your collaboration with Paula Cole was excellent.

What an incredible voice! A lot of people know her through her pop songs; they don't know how great she is, singing in that style.

Who was first to jump in?

It might have been Steven Tyler... [then] Michael Buble, Paula Cole... then I was having dinner with Sting one evening and I told him what the album was kind of shaping up to be. He said, "If you don't ask me to sing on this record, I'll be insulted." So I asked.

What was it like working with Steven Tyler?

We're radically from different genres [but] he's so enthusiastic about music. He was so taken aback when I asked him to do that song in that particular setting with the London Orchestra. He was so into it, man! I knew he'd be good but I didn't know he'd be that good.

What were the guest artists' inputs?

We spent a lot of time tailoring. When you listen to Sting sing "What Are You Doing The Rest Of Your Life?" his voice sounds enormous, gorgeous and wonderful. You want him to sound and feel luxurious inside the music. That's a harder thing to do than you might think. The input really was me flying to wherever they were and sitting with them and saying what key works and let's massage this till it is worked out just right, until it feels right.

Only a music artist who is really secure in his skills would have done this the way you did, allowing your guest artists to shine. How did you get to this point of confidence?

The more honest I am about the records I make, interestingly enough, the more successful they become. In "regular" pop, you have an instrumentalist playing all the way through behind the singer and the singer will be singing and hear the trumpet going non-stop the whole time or saxophone or whatever instrument is of choice.

A long time ago, John Coltrane and Johnny Hartman did this record—they just had Johnny Hartman sing and then John Coltrane played solo. And then John Coltrane played solo and Johnny Hartman would sing. It was very simple, understated and wonderful. It was the kind of record that I wanted to put on and listen to at home. That ultimately is the thing. If you listen to Miles Davis' records, he probably plays only 20 or 30 percent of the time, 'cause you're listening to Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock and all the other players.

That's my point of view. It's my name on the front but I don't need to be heard through every single measure.

Bituin, drama queen

"THIS IS MY FIRST MAJOR SOLO CONCERT," Bituin Escalante said. "In Bituin... For The First Time" is the show's title.

Asked where she drew emotions from while performing, Bituin declared, unblinking: "I'm a drama queen. If I don't have a problem, I create one."

Her featured guest is Mon David, grand prize winner of the recently concluded London International Jazz Competition for Vocalist.

"I got lucky," Bituin said. "Mon David is now a friend."

Her special two-night concert, produced by Thirdline, is set today and tomorrow, 9 p.m., at Onstage, Greenbelt 1, Makati City.

Jaya 'Overjoyed'

Also today and tomorrow, Jaya stars in "Overjoyed," at the Music Museum. The show marks her 10th year in show business.

It is Jaya's first major solo concert in four years.

Call (0917) 897-8357.

Today

Hotdog with Members and Butterflies at Suburbia Malate

"Tip... Masters of Guitars: Nyoy Volante" at Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan

Hale at Ratsky Malate

True Faith at Ratsky Morato

Kim Flores at Del Rio Resort in Marbel City

K and The Boxers at Ratsky Tomas Morato

Dave at Suburbia

Tomorrow

Bituin Escalante in her first major concert at Onstage, Greenbelt 1

The CompanY at Hyatt Regency Manila's

Calesa Bar

Side A at Starmall La Piñas

"Tip... Masters of Guitars: Nyoy Volante" at Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan

Winston In Concert featuring Bamboo and Sugarfree at Cocomangas Oyster Bar in Boracay

True Faith at Ratsky Malate

Boy Abunda and Tin-Tin Bersola host Surf Mother's Day Concert at the CCP Grounds with celebrity moms

Donna Cruz, Yayo Aguila-Martinez, Maricel Morales and Dawn Zulueta

Kim Flores at South Koronadal Gym in Marbel City

K and The Boxers at Ratsky Malate

May 14

Mom's Day Out with Ruby Rodriguez at Metropolis Star Alabang; 4 p.m.

May 15

K and The Boxers at Zirkoh Greenhills

May 17

K and The Boxers at Klownz Araneta

Sitti at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

May 18

The CompanY at Hard Rock Café

May 19

Troy Montero at Ratsky Malate

May 20

Hotdog with Members and Butterflies at Suburbia Malate

"Tip... Masters of Guitars: Nyoy Volante" at Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan

Hale at Ratsky Malate

True Faith at Ratsky Morato

Kim Flores at Del Rio Resort in Marbel City

K and The Boxers at Ratsky Tomas Morato

Dave at Suburbia

Today

Bituin Escalante in her first major concert at Onstage, Greenbelt 1

The CompanY at Hyatt Regency Manila's

May 21

Hotdog with Members and Butterflies at Suburbia Malate

"Tip... Masters of Guitars: Nyoy Volante" at Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan

Hale at Ratsky Malate

True Faith at Ratsky Morato

Kim Flores at Del Rio Resort in Marbel City

K and The Boxers at Ratsky Tomas Morato

Dave at Suburbia

May 22

Hotdog with Members and Butterflies at Suburbia Malate

"Tip... Masters of Guitars: Nyoy Volante" at Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan

Hale at Ratsky Malate

True Faith at Ratsky Morato

Kim Flores at Del Rio Resort in Marbel City

K and The Boxers at Ratsky Tomas Morato

Dave at Suburbia

May 23

Hotdog with Members and Butterflies at Suburbia Malate

"Tip... Masters of Guitars: Nyoy Volante" at Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan

Hale at Ratsky Malate

True Faith at Ratsky Morato

Kim Flores at Del Rio Resort in Marbel City

K and The Boxers at Ratsky Tomas Morato

Dave at Suburbia

May 24

Hotdog with Members and Butterflies at Suburbia Malate

"Tip... Masters of Guitars: Nyoy Volante" at Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan

Hale at Ratsky Malate

True Faith at Ratsky Morato

Kim Flores at Del Rio Resort in Marbel City

K and The Boxers at Ratsky Tomas Morato

Dave at Suburbia

May 25

Hotdog with Members and Butterflies at Suburbia Malate

"Tip... Masters of Guitars: Nyoy Volante" at Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan

Hale at Ratsky Malate

True Faith at Ratsky Morato

Kim Flores at Del Rio Resort in Marbel City

K and The Boxers at Ratsky Tomas Morato

Dave at Suburbia

May 26

Hotdog with Members and Butterflies at Suburbia Malate

"Tip... Masters of Guitars: Nyoy Volante" at Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan

Hale at Ratsky Malate

True Faith at Ratsky Morato

Kim Flores at Del Rio Resort in Marbel City

K and The Boxers at Ratsky Tomas Morato

Dave at Suburbia

May 27

Hotdog with Members and Butterflies at Suburbia Malate

"Tip... Masters of Guitars: Nyoy Volante" at Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan

Hale at Ratsky Malate

True Faith at Ratsky Morato

Kim Flores at Del Rio Resort in Marbel City

K and The Boxers at Ratsky Tomas Morato

Dave at Suburbia

May 28

Hotdog with Members and Butterflies at Suburbia Malate

"Tip... Masters of Guitars: Nyoy Volante" at Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan

Hale at Ratsky Malate

True Faith at Ratsky Morato

Kim Flores at Del Rio Resort in Marbel City

K and The Boxers at Ratsky Tomas Morato

Dave at Suburbia

May 29

Hotdog with Members and Butterflies at Suburbia Malate

"Tip... Masters of Guitars: Nyoy Volante" at Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan

Hale at Ratsky Malate

True Faith at Ratsky Morato

Kim Flores at Del Rio Resort in Marbel City

Tough acts to follow

ON MAY 15, THE TV VERSION OF THE HIT film, "Bituing Walang Ningning," will start telecasting on Channel 2. This early, industry people wonder if the seminal story about the complicated fan-star relationship will turn out to be a thematic, emotional motherlode that can be mined for TV gold as well.

A lot is riding on how viewers will take to the performances of Sarah Geronimo in Sharon Cuneta's fan role, and Angelica dela Cruz stepping into Cherie Gil's star (and cool-bitch-villain) persona.

Any indications? Well, Sarah has been

honed and pushed in different aspects of performance ever since she became a national singing tilt when she was only 14 years young. The results to date, however, have been iffy.

She's become a formidable singer, but of the birit sort. And the damage wreaked on her voice by constant belting has been noticeable for all to hear.

As an actress, Sarah's work had been even less rewarding. We get the feeling that she's hinog sa pilit, forced by her handlers to

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre



SARAH Geronimo

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4: Mission Impossible 3

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3 DAY SALE (May 19-21) Ruby Rodriguez (May 20) Sido A (May 27) Metropolis Star Alabang
Ruby Rodriguez (May 14) Christian Bautista Jennylyn Mercado (May 27) Starmall Edsa

REAL HORROR STORY "An American Haunting" TAKES A SOLID BOW IN 3RD PLACE

In a counter-programming strategy that worked, Freestyle Releasing's true horror story "An American Haunting", took the 3rd spot in the US Box office last weekend. The horror film was in the fewest theaters and yet had the highest per-theater average -- after "M:I:3" -- of the session's top 12 films this weekend. Donald Sutherland and Sissy Spacek star in the film, which was helmed and written by Courtney Solomon.



POSSESSION KNOWS NO BOUNDS: Rachel Hurd-Wood stars as Betsy Bell, the young girl tormented by the demonic spirit in "An American Haunting".

American Haunting is based on the true story of a real demonic possession that caused the death of a person. The incident was witnessed and documented by hundreds of people (among them was the 7th President of the United States Andrew Jackson). This true story represents one of the most famous instances of demonic possession in American history. cr

WHOSE SIDE WILL YOU BE ON?

X-MEN THE LAST STAND

MAY 24

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THE IMPOSSIBLE MISSION?**

TOM CRUISE

MIKE FENSTERWALD

MICHELLE MONAGHAN MAGGIE RUSSELL

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METROBANK

RP rates poorly in competitiveness survey

Country ranks 49th in poll of 61 nations; weak governance cited

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES RANKED 49th out of the 61 countries rated in terms of global competitiveness in 2005, maintaining the same poor position it occupied in 2004.

The country rated weakly in the areas of education, good governance, investment climate, and health, according to the 2006 World Competitiveness Yearbook published by the Switzerland-based Institute for Management Development (IMD).

The results of the World Competitiveness Survey was presented yesterday at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) in Makati City.

"Our assessment is that [the country's] problems have been recurring year in and year out," said Mia Denopol, project manager for the Global Competitiveness program.

Denopol noted that the areas where the country had rated poorly had not changed. She cited the problem of poor

RP RATES/B2



STATE OF THE ART

President Macapagal-Arroyo views the state-of-the-art facilities of Saudi Arabian Oil Co. during her visit to Saudi Aramco's headquarters in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Saudi Aramco is owned by the Saudi government. With her is the oil firm's president and chief executive officer Abdallah Jum'ah (second from left).

OPS-NIB PHOTO

Shares close 0.84% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.84 percent higher on strong interest in mining stocks after metals rose to fresh records in US trade overnight, dealers said.

A fresh wave of buying in blue chips also lifted the market as foreign funds continued to pour in, dealers said.

The composite index closed up 21.30

SHARES/B2

Mirant's RP subsidiary sells 50% stake in power plant operator

By Abigail L. Ho

ATLANTA-BASED MIRANT CORP. HAS sold the 50-percent stake of its Philippine subsidiary in power firm Mirant Global Philippines Corp.

In a statement, First Metro Investment Corp. president Francisco Sebastian said the company arranged for the sale of Mi-

rant Philippines Corp.'s Mirant Global stake to a group of investors led by Global Business Holdings Inc.

Global Business Holdings, a member of the Metrobank group, is Mirant's joint venture partner for Mirant Global.

Mirant's parent firm in Atlanta said that the sale of its 50-percent stake in Mirant Global was "consistent with its strat-

egy of focusing on assets of substantial scale."

The Mirant Global joint venture was formed in 2003 to help address the growing power demand of the Visayas region.

Mirant Global operates the 121-megawatt (MW) Toledo facility in Cebu. The joint venture also expanded the ca-

pacity of its Panay plant by 40 MW, as well as put up a 7.5-MW diesel-fired plant in Nabas, Aklan and another 5-MW diesel facility in New Washington town, also in Aklan.

The plants represent less than 5 percent of Mirant's total capacity in the Philippines, which now stands at around 2,200 MW.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Merry Christmas, brokers

/B3

Gov't puts on roro roadshow to drum up finances

/B2

Space Full Of Wonders

I wonder if she would like the color white in our bedroom...

I wonder what delicious dish she will cook up tonight...

I wonder what movie we'll watch here later...

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Life at your own rhythm

Brittany

Map showing the location of Caribe at The Islands, Taguig City, Philippines.

Gov't puts on roro roadshow to drum up finances

DBP opens P12-B loan facility for development of roro ports

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS stepped up efforts to complete the Road RoRo (roll-on, roll-off) Terminal Systems project by putting on a nationwide roadshow, together with private sector partners, to drum up investments for the project.

Already, the Development Bank of the Philippines has opened a P12-billion loan facility that can be accessed by local government units and private entities interested in investing in roro ports development.

The government road show will also complement the recent move of the National Development Co. to set up the Maritime Equity Corp. of the Philippines (MECP), whose mandate is to acquire roro vessels for lease to private-sector investors.

The transport and logistics committee of the Export Development Council (EDC), a government-private sector partnership tasked with recommending policies programs to boost exports, will conduct the roadshows starting next month.

Enrico Basilio, economics professor at the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) who does research work related to the roro project, said the roadshow would initially cover the provinces of Quezon, Surigao and La Union.

"The benefits of developing roro

ports are obvious," Basilio said in a press briefing at the UA&P yesterday. "It enhances regional trade, boosts tourism, and serves as a catalyst for area development."

Basilio said that, so far, there have been 15 roro connections established under the nationwide roro project. This means 34 more connections are needed to complete the 49 connections targeted under the project.

What have been completed so far, he said, are the eastern and western loops of the project.

To complete the nationwide roro project, the government has to establish connections in the central loop, which would cover the provinces of Masbate, Cebu, Bohol, Camiguin and Misamis Oriental, he added.

The estimated cost of developing a roro port is P30 million, and a roro connection, which involves two ports, may cost P60 million, Basilio said. A roro shipping vessel is estimated to each cost P100 million.

The economist said that low-earning local government units might not be able to afford the establishment of a roro port. For this reason, Basilio said, LGUs are encouraged to look for potential partners from the private sector.

While the local government can provide land area, private sector may infuse the funds needed to develop and operate the roro ports.

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

LAST MAY 7, FORMER ATHLETE and current Sen. Francisco Pangilinan told the crowd at the 2006 Palarong Pambansa opening in Naga City that sports is not just about winning games, but more importantly, about developing character.

From this perspective, much from Palarong Pambansa may be applied to our international trade.

Palarong Pambansa

Two days after the senator addressed the crowd, it was reported over the radio that some teams were accused of cheating for fielding over-aged participants in certain age categories. One such incident was reported by a coach who found out that a 17-year-old was competing in the 13-year-old category. That player's team won, but at the expense of the higher value of character development.

If such unfair practices are not corrected, we may again suffer the international embarrassment we experienced when a team from the Philippines was caught violating the age limit rule several years ago. We unfairly won the world championship in Little League baseball.

International trade

A similar situation happened—and will likely happen again unless we stop it—in the World Trade Organization (WTO). Obviously, developed nations are far more powerful than developing nations like ours. We therefore applaud the WTO when it inserted in its agreements the "Special and Differential Treatment (SND)" provision for developing nations.

But while SND is implemented in some areas, it is ignored in many others. Worse, commitments by developed countries to level the playing field remain vague and unfulfilled. An example is that developed countries have still not decreased their huge subsidies as an accompanying measure for developing countries' rapid tariff reductions.

SND most of the time is more rhetoric than reality. To correct this situation, the developing nations must band together in the current WTO negotiations, also known as the Doha, or development.

Power of unity

For the WTO's Agreement of Agriculture (AOA), 33 developing nations formed an alliance in July 2003 to protect their important agricultural products from rapid liberalization.

At the sixth WTO ministerial meeting held in Hong Kong in December 2005, the delegates succeeded in inserting the provisions for "Special Products (SP) and Special Safeguard Measures (SSM)" for developing countries in the agreement reached during the WTO meeting. This is because the developing nations had the power of a united bloc, with Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban and Undersecretary Godfredo Serrano, assuming lead roles.

The specific modalities and

schedules for the two provisions are now being negotiated in Geneva. Rep. Erin Tañada is a major advocate of these provisions. Others are Jessica Reyes-Cantos, Rice Watch and Action Network (R1) head, Riza Bernabe of Centro Saka, and the group Alyansa Agrikultura (telephone number 024265626), which came out with a paper on the subject entitled, "Seizing the Opportunity: Special Products and Special Safeguards Mechanisms."

Their positions will serve as a good guide for our negotiators.

Market access

For WTO's Non-Agricultural Market Access Agreement (NaMa), which includes industrial products and fisheries, the unity of developing nations to push for SND came too late.

The NaMa 11 (composed of 11 developing nations) was organized only last December 2005, the very same month the WTO Ministerial Meeting was held. Thus, they did not succeed in modifying the Swiss formula for the agricultural sector (a mechanism for rapid tariff liberalization), which the G 33 successfully rejected.

The Alyansa Agrikultura, which represents the fishery sector in NaMa, along with the four umbrella organizations of the Fair Trade Alliance—the Federation of Philippine Industries, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Philippine Exporters' Foundation—defined the country's NaMa position.

The groups are advocating an exemption of 10 percent of tariff lines from WTO maximum bound rates, a much higher co-

efficient than the 25 percent of the Swiss Formula that will slow down the liberalization pace. The groups also want a formula adjustment that will give us credit for the unilateral liberalization we undertook.

Credit should go to DTI Secretary Peter Favila and Undersecretary Tomas Aquino for supporting this effort. Favila was the first Cabinet official to institutionalize private sector participation in the WTO. Aquino is currently working on the NaMa negotiations.

Conclusion

The Palarong Pambansa is the training ground for our young to strive for excellence while developing moral values. These include integrity and fair play. We are confident that the Department of Education will correct any unfairness during the Palaro so that our youth will be equipped with the right skills, discipline and values when they later assume leadership roles in fields such as international trade.

Our current DA and DTI officials should likewise continue to battle unfairness in WTO. This way, SND and the development thrust in the Doha Round will become more reality than rhetoric. The private sector must now unite and fully support DA and DTI so that we will win in this important game.

(The author is Agriwatch chair, former Cabinet secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

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Shares close 0.84% higher

From page B1
points at 2,550.79 after trading between 2,529.49 and 2,553.99. Volume was 6.5 billion shares worth P3.2 billion (\$62.7 million).

The broader all-shares index advanced 19.05 points to 1,576.

Gainers led losers 92 to 27, with 33 stocks unchanged.

Among miners, Philex Mining Corp A, limited to Filipinos, gained 50 centavos to P5.30. Philex B, which foreign investors can buy, advanced 55 centavos to P5.30. Semirara Mining Corp. gained 50 centavos to P30.50. AFP

RP rates poorly . . .

From page B1
infrastructure that placed the country outside the radar screen of foreign investors.

According to Dennis Legaspi, associate director of the AIM Policy Center, IMD's partner in the dissemination of the World Competitiveness Survey, some of the areas where the Philippines rated poorly included

pupil-teacher ratio, where the country landed on the last spot at 61.

Other areas where the country ranked low were on expenditure on education (60th), expenditure on health (60th), expenditure on research and development (60th), country's credit rating (57th), country image abroad (57th), risk

of political instability (60th), bribery and corruption (60th), brain drain (58th), and independence of public service from political interference (59th).

The report also cited the improved ranking of other countries in the Asia Pacific region.

Legaspi said China moved up from 31st place in 2004 to 19th last year, while India improved from 39th place to 29th. Malaysia likewise improved, moving from 28th spot to 23rd.

Neighboring Hong Kong and Singapore performed strongly, ranking second and third, following the United States, which ranked 1st in the scale last year.

But Legaspi said there were areas where the Philippines ranked strongly. These areas include cost of living index, where the country ranked the first. The Philippines also got the highest rank in terms of percentage of high-technology exports as a percentage of manufactured goods.

Other areas where the Philippines performed strongly were in real short-term interest rate (2nd), consumption tax rate (6th), collected tax revenues as percentage of gross domestic product (7th), compensation levels (4th), working hours (5th).

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FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2006

BUSINESS**Merry Christmas, brokers**

IT IS ONLY MAY, BUT AT THE RATE A NUMBER of stock brokers have been snapping up luxury cars, you would think it is Christmas-time again.

According to the grapevine, Audi, whose authorized importer-distributor is stockbroker Robert Coyuto Jr., has sold more than two dozen units since the onset of the bull market to an equal number of stock market brokers and players.

The Audis range from the entry-level A4s to the limo-like A8s like the daily driver—this we saw with our very own eyes—of international container terminal king Enrique Razon Jr.

The good fortune has also spilled over to the real estate market. For instance, stock market player/developer Benjamin Bitanga, who not long ago sold his Dasmarinas Village house to importer Lucio Co to help pare down Asian currency crisis debts, has imported no less than a brand-new Aston Martin DB9 (list price, depending on specs: from \$155,000 to \$172,350) to toast his reviving fortunes.

Over at the red-hot mining sector, an indication that Benguet Corp. has gotten out of its decade-long debt rut is that its president/CEO, Benjamin Philip Romualdez, is now scooting around town in a black BMW 7 limo, no less.

His gregarious brother, Equitable PCIBank vice chair Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, has in the meantime not lost hope that his fellow car aficionado, Manila Golf king maker Macario Te, will finally overcome personal undercurrents and join him in getting their hands on those Le Mans winner Audi diesels.

Te buying from Coyuto? Now, that's really spreading good tidings and good cheer.

Metrobank sexed up

THE STAID Metrobank is finally spicing up its stock market standing by agreeing to release more than 203 million more shares, raising the current outstanding shares of 1.63 billion shares by about 12.4 percent.

The improved liquidity, which it is hoped, would translate to improved share pricing, marks the ascension of the eldest son of taipan George Ty, the 40-year-old Arthur, as president of the country's largest bank.

Details of the secondary offering are still being worked out, but the Ty plan follows similar paths taken by the listed companies of taipans John Gokongwei and Henry Sy—give the market more shares, and the market rewards you with even greater market valuation to more than

COCKTAILS

Victor C. Agustin

seven others as senior VPs.

Money-go-round

- FORMER Rep. Egmedio Tanjuatco Jr. may find it difficult to get himself appointed as a Comelec commissioner or to any other government position given that Bank of Commerce, controlled by his relative Antonio Cojuangco Jr., is still suing him for an unspecified sum of money at the Makati Regional Trial Court.

- The work- and deal-swamped SM heiress Teresita Sy is giving up her board seat at PLDT, with her independent directorship to be taken up by Metrobank heir, Federal Land

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Philippines Daily Inquirer

PRULINK

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week May 9, 2006	Last Week May 2, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.45925	1.47441
Managed Fund - Peso	1.63009	1.61041
Growth Fund - Peso	1.34581	1.24968
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2552	1.2509

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.



Investment Funds of Wealth Builder & Wealth Secure

UNIT PRICES (in Php)	May 8, 2006	May 1, 2006
Fixed Income Fund	1.172364	1.178017
Balanced Fund	1.196966	1.170445
Equity Fund	1.256775	1.155156

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Metrobank plans expansion

Bank builds capital, looks for possible acquisitions

By Doris C. Dumla

THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST LENDER Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. is back in expansion mode, beefing up its core capital base and hunting for potential acquisitions for the first time this decade.

Under the leadership of its new president, Taipan George Ty's son Arthur, the bank is now raising up to P9 billion through the issuance of new shares and the unloading of about P15 billion worth of bad assets.

After completing the sale of \$125 million worth of perpetual bonds eligible as hybrid tier 1 capital, Metrobank's board approved Wednesday night the issuance of up to 203.6 million in new shares from its authorized but unissued capital stock through a domestic and international equity placement.

Analysts said that based on current market prices, the new issuance could raise P8.5 to P9 billion.

Metrobank's status as the country's biggest bank is being challenged by smaller but more aggressive rivals such as Bank of the Philippine Islands, Banco de Oro Universal bank and Union Bank of the Philippines.

There were talks in the banking sector that Metrobank had recently offered to buy International Exchange Bank, but this was denied by the new Metrobank president. I-bank's controlling shareholders recently agreed to sell out to UnionBank.

Metrobank widened its lead over its peers earlier with the acquisition of Solid Banking Corp. in 2000 and its consolidation with Metrobank subsidiary Global Business Bank in 2002.

Bad assets inherited from previous acquisitions prompted Metrobank to slow down in previous years, but bank officials said the 'digestion period' was over and the bank was ready to look for more expansion opportunities.

During the stockholders meeting, Metrobank amended its charter to scrap the preemptive rights of existing shareholders during capital-raising activities, aiming to increase the bank's free float and encourage the entry of more investors.

In a statement yesterday, Metrobank said that in line with the planned capital call, "certain shareholders may decide to sell secondary shares as part of the offering."

Metrobank said it would use the net proceeds from the issue to further strengthen its capital adequacy ratio in response to recent adjustments following its adoption of International Accounting Standards and in anticipation of Basel II requirements which will be effective in 2007.



PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. president Napoleon Nazareno and chair Manuel Pangilinan address a press conference at the company's headquarters in Manila. An appreciating local currency resulted in PLDT posting a 7-percent drop in Q1 profit to P8.58 billion. AFP

SMIC posts P2.9B in profit

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SM INVESTMENTS CORP., THE FLAGSHIP company of taipan Henry Sy, said it had registered a net income of P2.9 billion from January to March this year due to one-time gains from the sale of global shares.

The amount, it said, was 126 percent higher than the P1.3 billion posted in April to June last year, the first quarter of its fiscal year 2006 ending March. The company, however, has shifted to the regular calendar year starting this year.

Including minority interests and income generated from subsidiaries, total net income stood at P3.77 billion or 83 percent higher than last year's P2.06 billion, SMIC said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

SMIC booked an extraordinary income of P1.3 billion from the sale of global depository receipts representing Banco de Oro shares.

Income without the one-time gain would have stood at P1.6 billion in the first quarter, up 23 percent from P1.3 billion in the same period last year.

Strong sales from SMIC's retail business

pushed consolidated revenue up 10.8 percent to P12.3 billion in the first quarter of 2006 from the previous year's P11 billion.

The retail group, with its network of 26 SM Department Stores, accounted for 67 percent of total revenue.

Retail sales grew 7.7 percent to P8.2 billion in 2006 from the P7.6 billion last year due to the opening of two new department stores in SM City San Lazaro and SM Sucat Annex in the second half of 2005 and an additional department store in SM City Sta. Rosa in the first quarter of 2006.

The strong performance of other subsidiaries also contributed significantly to SMIC's net income. Rental revenue from its shopping mall subsidiary, SM Prime Holdings, Inc., accounted for 19 percent of the total. While those from SM Prime's 23 shopping malls rose 15 percent to P 2.4 billion in the first three months of the year from last year's P2 billion. The company's healthy balance sheet and strong financial performance allowed it to declare cash dividend of 47 percent or P4.70 per share.

SMDC raises stake in Belle

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SM DEVELOPMENT CORP., THE RESIDENTIAL developer of the SM Group, has increased its stake in Belle Corp. to 8.78 percent, the company said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

SMDC said it had acquired additional 8.37 million shares of Belle, bringing its total holdings in the Tagaytay leisure homes developer to 55.89 million.

Yesterday, Belle closed at P1.42 apiece.

SMDC's move to increase its stake coincides with Belle's robust performance in the first quarter.

Ginebra Q1 earnings lower

GINEBRA SAN MIGUEL INC., THE HARD liquor arm of San Miguel Corp., reported weaker first quarter net earnings of P228 million, 38 percent lower than the P367.9 million booked in the same quarter last year.

GSMI chair Eduardo Cojuangco said GSMI had to absorb the additional cost arising from the higher expanded value added tax (VAT) rate and the 60-percent hike in the price of molasses, a basic raw material. These pared down operating income to P445 million in during the quarter.

"We are confident that our business will pick up in the coming months, especially as the gap between current and year-ago con-

sidered, dropped by 33 percent due to lower contribution from the hydro group.

Passenger and cargo mover Aboitiz Transport Group (ATG) reported a net loss of P192.4 million in the first quarter, bigger than last year's P167.2 million, due to weak sales brought about by its sluggish international charter business and low passenger and cargo volumes.

It said consolidated revenue in the first three months reached P2.5 billion, 12 percent lower than year-ago. Elizabeth L. Sanchez and Daxim Lucas

PHC trading suspension lifted

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE yesterday lifted the trading suspension on Philcomsat Holdings Corp. shares.

The decision was made after the Securities and Exchange Commission approved the company's amended articles of incorporation that allowed the extension of its corporate life by another 50 years.

Trading of PHC shares was suspended Wednesday by the exchange pending the approval of the extension of the company's corporate life. Elizabeth L. Sanchez

'Hot money' inflow hit \$101M in April

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN LOCAL EQUIITIES and debt papers, tagged as "hot money," posted a net inflow of \$101.2 million in April, less than half the \$279.8 million in the same period last year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

For the first four months of the year, there was a net foreign portfolio inflow of \$590.9 million, much smaller than the \$1.72 billion recorded a year ago.

The April inflow was 10 percent higher than the \$91.9 million posted in March.

"This development indicates positive investor sentiment following the strong performance of mining shares and the favorable reports on the first quarter budget deficit, overseas Filipino workers remittances and exports in February and the March inflation rate," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

Despite the upbeat sentiment on local stocks, gross investments in government securities were lower due to the narrowing differentials between domestic and foreign interest rates as well as the smaller volume of new government issuances given lower-than-expected budget deficits. Doris C. Dumla

Cocktales

From page B3

president Alfred Ty.

Heard through the grapevine

THE JAGUAR-LAND Rover showroom in Ortigas has shut down after the landlord increased rent this year by a hefty 12 percent. The Buendia dealership showroom—one is enough given the size and specialty of the local market—remains open.

(Email: cocktails_pdi@pltdsl.net or cocktails_pdi@yahoo.com)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 11, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6.8	7.2	6.8	7.2	202,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	37.5	37.5	37	37.5	269,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	68	70.5	58	70	8,372,800
China Banking Corp.	900	900	890	900	1,600
Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	5,320,000
Export and Import Bank A	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.46	81,400
PCI Bank Inc.	72	72.5	71	72	82,800
International Exch. Bank	40	40	40	40	14,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	44.5	44.5	43.5	43.5	416,900
Philippine National Bank	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	36,000
Phil. Savings Bank	39	39.5	39	39.5	19,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.5	19.5	17.5	19	271,300
Security Bank Corp.	56	58	56	58	263,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	50	50	49	49.5	18,800
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.75	0.76	0.76	0.76	250,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	32	32	32	32	11,400
Manulife Financial Corp.	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	150
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1.2	1.05	1.05	222,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,125	2,130	2,125	2,130	340
Vantage Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.28	1.3	3,329,000
INDUSTRIAL, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	49	51	49	51	1,431,000
First Phil Hedges Corp.	50.5	52.5	50.5	52.5	804,600
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.75	114,200
Manila Electric Co. B	21.5	21.75	21	21.75	1,068,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.8	3,097,000
Petron Corp.	4.85	4.95	4.8	4.95	4,686,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	410,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Corp.	1.18	1.26	1.14	1.16	3,195,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	291,000
CADP Group Corp.	31	34	31	33	135,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	24.75	25	24.75	25	209,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	38	39	38	39	859,600
Portakate House Inc.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	2,000
Roxas Holdings, Inc.	0.75	0.77	0.75	0.77	120,000
Roxas Holdings, Inc.	3.4	3.65	3.2	3.5	5,878,000
Swift Food, Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63.5	64	63.5	64	123,900
San Miguel Corp. B	82	83	82	83	172,200
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	28,000
Universal Robina Corp.	23.75	23.75	23.5	23.75	7,849,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & RELATED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	3,280,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.86	1.88	422,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.7	185,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.4	6,363,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.6	1.9	1.6	1.9	211,000
CHEMICALS					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	30,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.75	0.76	0.75	0.76	230,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.135	0.1	0.13	48,500,000
Stenfil Manufacturing	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	20,000
HOLDING FIRMS</b					

OBITUARIES



The Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic

wish to announce the entrance into eternal life of

Sr. Francis Ann Mulligan, M.M.

on May 3, 2006 at the age of 90

at the Maryknoll Sisters Center in New York.

She had been a Maryknoll Sister for 68 years. She was assigned to the Philippines in 1961 serving in Davao, SOS Children's Village in Lipa City, and a pastoral worker in Santiago, Isabela.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

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DR. MARCELINO S. REYES

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 10, 2006 at the age 85.

His loving wife Patrocinio (Sening); children Linda & Nelly, Francis, Annie & Ben, sisters Carmen & Norberta, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 14, 2006 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina

CESAR ARIZABAL FERAREN

Vigan, Ilocos Sur

Former Dep-Ed Administrative Officer, Manila
Trainer - Adamson University Junior Basketball Team
Basketball Referee

Peacefully joined our Creator on May 9, 2006 at the age of 80.

His loving wife CONSOLACION PALAFOX, son JULIUS & daughter-in-law TINA, sisters LUCILA & VICENTE (†), ROSARIO & NICK, MA. VICTORIA & PIO (†), brothers-in-law; HONORATO & FLORA, BENJAMIN & VIRGINIA, sisters-in-law; NENITA & MACARIO and MOBINA, nieces and nephews, friends and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 14, 2006 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the Morning Mass at 9:00 o'clock in Arlington Memorial Chapels.

Our Dearly Beloved

ROSARIO 'SISTER CHARING' MONASTERIAL SUSARA

peacefully joined our Lord and her husband Ramon Z. Susara on May 10, 2006 at the age of 88.

Her children and spouses, Iggy (†) & Espee, Evelyn & Carlo, Luis & Nora (†), Marita & Ben, Mario & Baby, Mila & Oscar, Bobby & Lina, Sammy & Bess, Boy & Perla, Bong & Leony, and Benjie; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, Gregorio Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 16, 2006 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

Our Beloved Mama and Lola

Silvia Araneta vda de Torres

January 11, 1912 – May 11, 2006

peacefully joined our Lord on May 11, 2006 at the age of 94.

Her children, in-laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren request relatives and friends to join them in praying for her eternal happiness.

Arnaldo and Ma. Cecilia Javelona and Children

Josephine; Suzette and John De Soto, Camille, Nicole, John-John, Erwin and Nella, Joan, Silvie, Joey, April Joy; John and Pamela, Johnnie, Jef; Andrew and Tess, Andrea; Christine and Ray Bolardo, Miguel, Gabby, Jude and Anabelle, MJ, Carla

A. Raul Torres Jr and Ma. Catalina (†) and Children

Marianne and Paul, Angel, Katherine, Kimi, Jojo, Gee-Gee, Agnes, Anton and Irish, Pauline

Johnny and Mercy Torres and Children

Michelle and Dave Jones, Ty Justin; JP, Taryn, JR, Meileen

Ignacio and Ma. Silvia Javellana and Children

Jay and Malca, Gabby, Ger and Arnee, Aly; Loy and Jing, Bea, Josh; David, Mel and Winnie, Belle

Francisco (+) and Victoria Torres and Son Francisco Jr

Her remains lie in state at Alisbo Memorial in Mandalagan, Bacolod City. Interment will be on May 14, 2006, Sunday, at Bacolod Sacred Heart Memorial Park.

Details for the Mass to be announced later.

We design
obituaries for free.

Our Beloved

VIRGINIA ASESOR VDA. DE ARAÑO

of San Juan Crisostomo, Anilao, Iloilo

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 9, 2006 at the age of 98.

Her children Evelyn, Senene, Melinda and grandchildren request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 13, 2006 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the grave with her grandson Rev. Fr. Alejo Simon Araño III as the officiating priest.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that MR. CARLITO C. GALITA whose picture appears below has ceased to be connected in any capacity with AIRBORNE SECURITY SERVICE, INC. effective November 17, 2005.



Any transactions entered into with this person from and after the date mentioned above shall not be honored and shall not be for the responsibility of the company.

AIRBORNE SECURITY SERVICE, INC.

Andrea Bldg. 1, 1009 G.M. Tolentino St., Sampaloc, Manila
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(PDI - May 6, 10 & 12, 2006)

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ABOITIZ ONE, INC.

GEN. AVIATION, DOMESTIC AIRPORT

PASAY CITY

NOTICE OF MISSING O.R.

This is to inform the general public, particularly Aboitiz One customers, that the following Official Receipts of Aboitiz One, Inc. are missing and declared lost:

O.R. No.

120058

0081786

0073327

to

0073342

0081791

Accordingly, Aboitiz One, Inc., will not honor transactions for which the above enumerated Official Receipts were issued.

(PDI - May 12, 2006)



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Bldg., EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

SEC-CFD REGISTRATION NO. 049 Series of 2005

IN THE MATTER OF THE
PRUDENTIALIFE FIXED
INCOME FUND, INC.

Registration of Securities under
the Securities Regulation Code
- Registrant -

ORDER

Upon consideration of the Registration Statement and other papers and documents attached thereto which were filed for and on behalf of PRUDENTIALIFE FIXED INCOME FUND, INC. the Commission in its meeting of April 6, 2006, resolved to render effective the same for the registration of the company's Three Hundred Million (300,000,000) common shares with a par value of P1.00 each, representing its latest increase in its authorized capital stock.

A Certificate of Permit to Offer Securities for Sale authorizing the sale of said securities is issued with this Order.

Let a copy of this ORDER be published at the expense of the corporation once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines for ten (10) days from date of this ORDER. The subject company is hereby directed to furnish the Commission with a copy of the affidavit of publication of this ORDER.

SO ORDERED

April 12, 2006, EDSA, Greenhills, City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

(Sgd.) JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

(PDI - May 5 & 12, 2006)

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ERRATUM

WVSUMC regrets to announce that it will rescind and cancel its notice of "Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid" published on April 29, 2006 and May 6, 2006 at the Philippine Daily Inquirer in view of the errors contained in said notice.

(Sgd.) ANNA VICTORIA J. SOMBONG, M.D.
BAC-Chairman
WVSUMC

(PDI - May 12, 2006)

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP

ALIW COMPLEX,

CALVARIO, MECY,

BULACAN, ALL

UNREDEEMED PLEDGES

OF NOV. 2005 WILL BE

AUCTIONED ON MAY 24,

10:00 AM. LANUZA &

SONS - AUCTIONEER

MARILAO-FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP

M&R BLDG. TABING ILOG,

MARILAO, BULACAN, ALL

UNREDEEMED PLEDGES

OF NOV. 2005 WILL BE

AUCTIONED ON MAY 24,

8:00 AM. LANUZA & SONS - AUCTIONEER

BUY-SELL-PAWN WATCHES JEWELRY

HIGHEST APPRAISAL

8040484/8342886

IATSS FORUM ALUMNI PHILIPPINES' NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS INDUCTED

IATSS (International Association of Traffic and Safety Sciences), a non-stock, non-profit organization which focuses its efforts on traffic safety recently held the oath-taking ceremony of its newly elected officers at the University of the Philippines campus. Shown in photo are (from left) Undersecretary Fortunato dela Pena, Chairperson of the National Committee, Jennette Montebon, President, Hazel Ludovice, Vice-President, Ana Hernandez, Secretary, Gigi Gotangco, Treasurer and Grace Agoncillo, Auditor.



Photo by: Gigi Gotangco

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinoza@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

World Telecommunication Day observed May 17

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL Kofi Annan and ITU Secretary-General Yoshio Utsumi recently informed ITU member states, including the Philippines, that May 17 will be observed this year, as it has been marked every year throughout the world since the early '60s, as World Telecommunication Day. This event commemorates the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the specialized arm for telecommunications of the United Nations, 141 years ago.

Both Annan and Utsumi emphasized the fact that World Telecommunication Day 2006 carries added significance this year. According to the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) this day starting this year will be referred to as the "World Information Society Day". This year's theme for World Telecommunication Day is: "Promoting Global Cybersecurity" to highlight the

serious challenges the world now faces in ensuring the safety and security of critical networked information and communications infrastructure.

The ITU is now coordinating with the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT), the telecommunications administration for the Philippines, through CICT Commissioner Damian Domingo "Dondi" O. Mapa. Newly appointed CICT Chair Ramon P. Sales is expected to deliver the keynote address to open the two-day Conference-Workshop now being planned on May 17 and 18 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City. Also expected to speak is the Commissioner of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) Ronald Olivar Solis.

One of the special features of this year's celebration of World Telecommunication Day is the publication of a Special Supplement in the



KOFI ANNAN



YOSHIO UTSUMI



RAMON P. SALES



RONALD OLIVAR SOLIS



DAMIAN DOMINGO O. MAPA

nation's daily with the biggest circulation, The Philippine Daily Inquirer. This issue will focus on the progress achieved so far by our country in the field of information and communications technologies (ICT) and record the events that will take place during 2006 World Telecommunications Day

in the Philippines. The May 17 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer will carry a Special Supplement on the World Telecommunication Day. The publications, media and events group of the telecommunications consulting firm CD Castro Consultancy Inc (CDCCI) is coordinating events and programs

that will be held during the 2006 World Telecommunication Day with the ITU.

For more information about the 2006 World Telecommunication Day, call the publications, media and events group of CDCCI at 889-9110 or e-mail cdcastro@info.com.ph.

Letrozole effective as initial treatment after surgery in early breast cancer

A STUDY WHICH WAS DONE TO COMPARE the efficacy of two drugs for breast cancer showed that letrozole is more effective as an initial therapy after surgery in post-menopausal women with early breast cancer compared with tamoxifen.

The results of Breast International Group 1-98 (BIG 1-98) published in The New England Journal of Medicine showed that letrozole (Femara) reduced the risk of breast cancer returning by an additional 19 percent over the reduction offered by tamoxifen. Furthermore, patients taking letrozole showed a 27-percent reduction in the risk of the cancer spreading to distant parts of the body.

"One of the greatest fears confronted by women who have been treated for early breast cancer is that their cancer will come back," says Dr. Matthew Ellis, section head of

the Medical Oncology Division in the Department of Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis. "With letrozole we now have an option that can help address that fear early on, even in patients who we know face the greatest risk of recurrence."

In addition, BIG 1-98 showed that women with metastatic breast cancer who were given letrozole as first-line treatment had a significantly higher response rate, longer time for disease progression and a significant improvement in one to two-year survival rates compared to others who were given a different drug.

Due to the favorable results of the BIG 1-98 study, the US Food and Drug Administration has approved the use of letrozole as adjuvant treatment immediately after surgery among post-menopausal women with hormone-sensitive early breast cancer. In the Philippines, the Bureau of Food and Drug Administration has also approved the use of letrozole for the same indication.

According to Dr. Diane Young, vice president and global head of Clinical Development at Novartis Oncology, letrozole has consistently demonstrated superiority over tamoxifen as first-line therapy in women with metastatic breast cancer as well as in post-menopausal women with hormone-sensitive early breast cancer.

"In addition, letrozole provides a notable benefit to patients who are especially high risk of having their breast cancer return," she said. Patients are informed that letrozole, along with all drugs for breast cancer, is a prescription drug and should only be taken upon doctor's advice.

Target HDL-C levels for Asians set

MERCK INC SPONSORED A symposium on the importance of raising HDL cholesterol in reducing cardiovascular disease risk during the recent joint annual convention of the Philippine Lipid Society and Philippine Society of Hypertension.

Dr. Rody Sy, cardiologist and associate professor at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, presented the recommendations of the Pan-Asian Consensus Panel, which suggests that the HDL-C target in Asian countries should be at least 40 mg/dL.

The panel likewise recommends that treatment of low HDL-C should also be considered within the context of global cardiovascular risk management. Low HDL-C has been established as an independent risk factor that can predict the occurrence of future coronary heart disease (CHD). Treatment of low HDL-C

is therefore seen as an important step in the prevention of CHD and other cardiovascular diseases.

The Pan-Asian Consensus Panel suggests that nicotinic acid, a medicine for the treatment of low HDL-C, "may prove to be a useful therapeutic intervention, as monotherapy or in combination with a statin, in Asian patients with or at risk of CHD, including those with type 2 diabetes and metabolic syndrome."

The Pan-Asian Consensus Panel, composed of specialists from 10 countries including the Philippines, was convened to give recommendations on the target level of HDL-C for the Asian population, as well as recommended treatment and management of low HDL-C. Sy, together with Dr. Annette Borromeo from the Philippine Heart Center and Dr. Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco from The Medical City, were the country's representatives to the panel.

SALEM INAUGURATES RENOVATED STORE

On March 21, Salem Oceanic Industries Corp., manufacturer of 'Hari Ng Tibay' Mattress and Foam, inaugurated its newly renovated store, now known as Life So Easy, located along 1 Van Buren Street Pio Del Pilar, Makati (along South Super Highway). The store was initially opened in 2000 and was formerly known as Salem House. It showcased both local and imported goods for all market segments. It was then temporarily closed for ren-

ovation to improve the showroom. Shown at the ribbon-cutting ceremony is its president and CEO Benjamin S. Tiu with wife vice president Myrna L. Tiu, with special guest Bro. Roland Esguerra, district minister, Iglesia Ni Cristo. The company continues to uphold the tradition of providing all Filipino families the highest quality yet affordable products only Salem Oceanic Industries can offer. For more information, call 887-4597.

Goodwill Bookstore's summer surprises

SUMMER—THE TIME TO IMMERSE IN GOOD, REFRESHING, UPLIFTING AND INVIGORATING BOOKS.

Looking for good books these hot, summer days? Goodwill Bookstore is giving a soothing summer treat. Be part of the Great Summer Sale ongoing until May 16. Enjoy and splurge on cool prices and big discounts: Pocketbooks at P80, 60-percent discounts on selected

children's books, trade and reference books.

Here's an added treat for book enthusiasts. Goodwill Bookstore is giving a special 20-percent discount on regular items and 5 percent off on selected classics.

Visit Goodwill Bookstore, your family-friendly bookstore outlets now, where the coolest, most refreshing surprises await you this summer.



DANSART NOTES TO HEAVEN

The Angels Theatre Ensemble (ATE) of Dansart Angels Academy will present the four Hollywood box office hits of theater and movie films: 'Cats', 'Phantom of the Opera', 'Grease' and 'Miss Saigon' at SM City Dasmarinas, Cavite on May 13 at 4 p.m. Under the supervision and the diligent support of its directors/advisors, Donabel L. Cabela and Michael Arjay F. Cao, the young talented members of ATE performed the said play with justice. Consequently, the group received good reviews after staging these

for the first time during the DAA foundation week last February. ATE also performed original plays: 'Tando Lupa' (of Teatro Pilipino) and 'Sa Piling Ni Bathala'. Dansart Angels Academy situated at Rome Street, Summerwind Village 4, Dasmarinas, Cavite was founded by Mr and Ms Danilo Sarte. Marilgen C. Fajardo, the principal, is from UP. This school is making history for it is among the pioneer if not the first to grant 35 scholarships in the field of Theatre Arts, from Grades 4 to High School.

Spies up your summer with 'Totally Spies'

SAM, ALEX AND CLOVER OF THE HIT French animated series "Totally Spies" are up for an exciting summer getaway—where else but in the beautiful islands of the Philippines! While it's a time for leisure, the teen Spies had to carry out at least two missions assigned by WOOP Head Jerry before they can get a tan at the white beaches of Boracay:

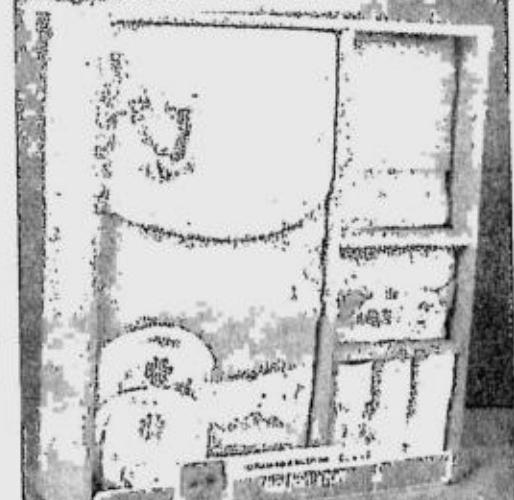
Mission 1: Catch the Spies as they're tasked to give away their totally cool gadgets this summer through the country's leading fast food chain Jollibee. Get a hold of your very own sleek Sticker Blower, Lipstick Stamper, and Crayon Organizer when you avail yourself of your favorite Jollibee Kids Meal. Each cool gadget comes with a handy CD case comprising the Chic Art Set. Promo is ongoing until May 17. Hurry and collect all now!

Mission 2: Aside from perking up every little kid's summer adventures, the Spies are also designated to prep up for the next school year through allocation of Totally Spies-y school stuff at all leading bookstores and department stores nationwide. While Totally Spies bags, shoes, clothes and other trendy merchandise are already available in the market, new Totally Spies items await moms and kids alike as a leading back-to-school manufacturer intro-



BABY'S HIP HAPPENING SUMMER

Clothe baby in 100% cotton baby essentials from head to toe so that he or she stays cool, comfortable, stylish and ultra-cute throughout the hot summer season. Ensure that only the best and most suitable materials touch your baby's delicate skin by looking for the Cotton USA mark in all of your baby's essentials. Cotton Stuff Baby, a premier retailer of infants' clothing and other essentials, launches its summer promo that gives shoppers the chance to take home a limited edition 10-piece Baby Essentials Gift Set worth over P1,300. For a minimum single receipt purchase of P100 from Cotton Stuff branches located at the Infant's Wear Section of 20 SM Department Stores entities the shopper to one tracking card.



Each time an additional P100 worth of items is purchased, shoppers will receive a stamp on the tracking card. Once 10 stamps have been accumulated, surrender the card and the Cotton Stuff Baby Essentials Gift Set is yours for the taking, absolutely free. Stamps and Cotton Stuff Baby Essentials Gift Sets may be redeemed from until June 1. Whatever you buy for baby, remember that cotton is key!

TiS launches 30-in tire in NY Auto Show

TWENTY INCHES strong (TiS) officials were on hand to personally unveil the world's first and only production 30-inch wheel and tire combo at the glitzy 23rd New York International Motorshow April 14th.

TiS wheels, the trendsetter in aftermarket custom wheels, is set to fire up the industry with the introduction of a finely crafted and distinctive 8-spoke, 3-piece wheel which is the first in the company's new Thirty Inches Strong line. As with all TiS brand wheels, these monstrous thirties feature Phat Lip technology, which allows for the deepest lip wheels on the road today. The first set of these monumental wheels and tires have been sold to MTV's Bam Margera from Viva La Bam-valued at just under \$150,000!

TiS is the most significant brand in the luxury automotive wheel market. Exceptional designs, superior style, and a wide range of sizes (starting at 20 inches) distinguish the TiS Luxury Wheel Collection into its own



class. To view the complete Twenty Inches Strong Premium Wheel product line, visit the showroom display of Wheel Gallery at 318 Kartek Center, Santolan Road, Greenhills, San Juan. Wheel Gallery is the official and exclusive TiS distributor in the country. "We are accepting special orders for the Thirty Inches Strong wheel line up. Interested parties can view the 30-inch wheel and tire package in our showroom and see how 30 inches strong transforms your ride," states Michelle Aberin of Wheel Gallery.

Both wheel and tire models are available now with more information soon available at www.tiswheels.com and www.conceptonewheels.com. Call 724-7176 for inquiries.

duces new sets of notebooks, drawing books, pencil cases and wrappers. The list goes on as Totally Spies also formally launches other products such as diaries, autograph books, photo albums, photo boxes, coin banks, scrap book, invitation cards and sumptuous party goods, which are already available at leading bookstores and novelty stores nationwide.

Still can't get enough of Totally Spies? Then maybe chat with the girls to endorse your products will make a difference. Interested parties are invited to be part of Totally Spies' worldwide licensing and merchandising program. For inquiries, call 722-4311 or email licensing@empiremultimedia.com. Log on to www.empiremultimedia.com.


TeleTech.
The Science of Customer Management


Cainta welcomes TeleTech

By Raquel Gomez

TELETECH, A LEADING GLOBAL BUSINESS process outsourcing (BPO) provider, continually and rapidly expands its presence in the country with the opening of a customer management center (CMC) in Cainta. This event is seen as a most welcome development in the area known as the gateway to the Rizal province.

The Cainta CMC is the fourth location to be established by the company over the last four



'It's very timely that we are building the site, we are building our teams, we are building relationships with our clients and we are also building the culture here'

GEOFF Domigpe,
site director, Cainta
CMC

years. Currently, TeleTech CMCs are established in Fort Bonifacio, Pasay City, and Novavalches, Quezon City.

TeleTech was founded by Kenneth Tuchman in California in 1982. Today, TeleTech has operations in 16 countries and on four continents, managing over two million interactions in up to 28 languages and 43 countries every day - with the capability to serve customers in up to 150 languages.

The Cainta site is said to be TeleTech's largest CMC in the country with total floor space of more than 11,000 square-meters. The center is characterized by state-of-the-art technology and ultra-modern facilities. It has more than 1,200 agent seats, several fully-equipped training rooms and e-learning laboratories, and a welcoming Talent Acquisition area.

This new CMC has several features never before seen in other TeleTech CMCs in the country. There is an auditorium that can be used either as a training laboratory or an entertainment center where employees can unwind by watching films. The center is handicap accessible - guests use the walkator from the main entrance to the office. A 24 x 7 full-service restaurant will serve a wide range of cuisine.

With the opening of its newest CMC located in Cainta, Rizal, TeleTech displays its continued confidence in the Philippines and the Filipino talent. Considered as the largest center not only in the country but also globally, Cainta CMC is an affirmation of bigger things to come.

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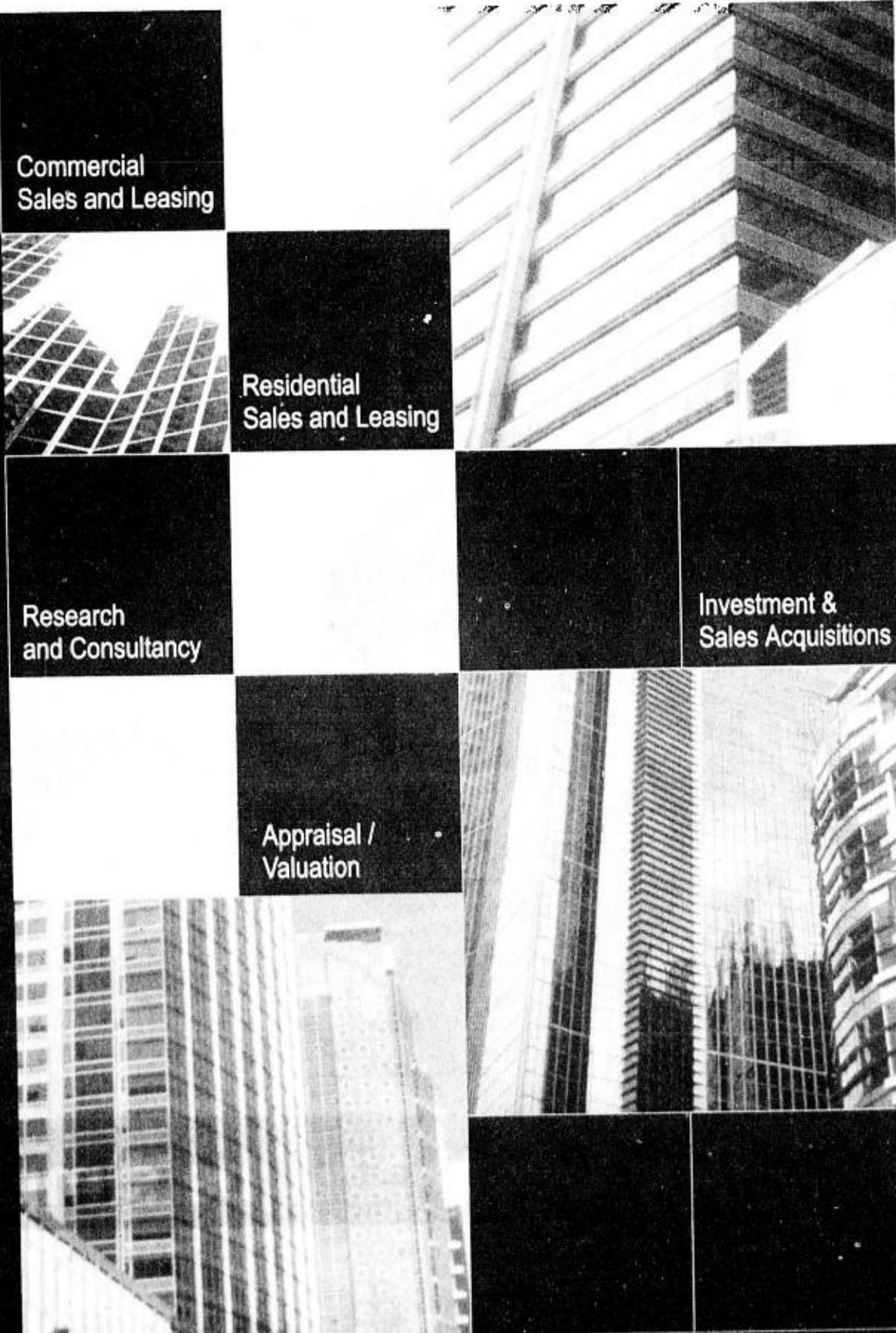
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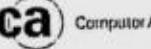
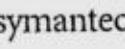
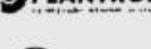
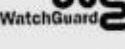
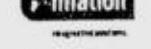
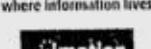
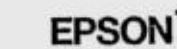
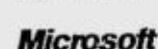


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People, Events & Products

Graphic Expo '06 kicks off annual animation, digital art competitions

THE ANNUAL ANIMATION AND DIGITAL ART competitions for the prestigious Graphic Expo 2006 have begun, with entries from amateurs and professionals now being accepted.

The winning works will be exhibited at the Philippine Trade Training Center from June 14 to 17 during the staging of Graphic Expo 2006, the country's premier trade show on desktop and web publishing, digital photography and imaging, pre-press, print production, large format printing, multimedia, and animation.

Qualified to join the 5th Animation Competition are design and animation studios, production houses, schools and universities, training institutes, animators, multimedia specialists, and web masters.

Competition categories are amateur/student level, and professional. Participants can use any animation software, preferably 3d. The theme is "Filipino Life and Magic."

The concept should be original, entertaining, and wholesome. Use of logos, brand names, foul language or action, and violence is banned. Maximum running time for animation entry is two minutes for amateur/student level, and three minutes for professional.

Entries, which must include concept and

storyboard, should be submitted in CD Rom format using Quick Time with 800 x 600 resolution, no compression. Audio format should be in 44khz 16 bits stereo.

For the Annual Digital Art Competition 2006, qualified to join are professional and amateur graphic and digital designers, web masters, photographers, and digital artists. The categories are digital graphic design, digital fine art, and web design.

For preliminary judging, entries must be printed on A4-size photo or inkjet paper, except for web design where the

works must be submitted in the form of URL.

The participants can use scanned imagery and digital painting techniques through various available graphics software. Each entry must be accompanied by a one-paragraph concept brief. Contestants can submit unlimited number of entries.

For the web design, entries should reflect the designers' creativity, originality, and understanding of the unique challenges in this field. Web sites will be judged for appearance, flexibility, navigation, interactivity and suitability for their target audiences.

All entries to any of the two competitions - Digital Art, and Animation - must not have

photos, images, symbols and artworks whose copyrights belong to other persons. Deadline for submission of entries is on May 19.

Each entry should include the name of the artist, address, company/school/training institute, contact person, telephone, fax and mobile numbers, and email address, and must be submitted to Fiera de Manila (Zen Bldg., 8352 Mayapis St., San Antonio Village, Makati City; call center: 8960639, 8960637, 8996216; email: fiera@info.com.ph; website: www.fmi.com.ph, www.graphicexpo.com.ph).

Prizes in cash and in kind await the winners. Announcement and awarding of the winners will be held on June 14 at the opening ceremonies of the Graphic Expo 2006, which is now on its 11th year.

Graphic Expo 2006 is supported by EPSON, Hewlett Packard, Canon, eArt Phils., IdN Club Phils., Zone V Camera Club, Philippine Center for Creative Imaging, Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines, and Animation Council of the Philippines, and sponsored by Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, IT Update, Computerworld, Softrigger Interactive, Digital Fox, GA Printing Inc., Web Philippines, BusinessWorld, and Manila Bulletin.

PHILAMILIFE IS RP'S FIRST PLATINUM TRUSTED BRAND AWARDEE

Philamlife recently became the country's first and only financial institution to be named a Platinum Trusted Brand by Reader's Digest Asia in its 2006 Trusted Brands Survey conducted by AC Nielsen. This marks Philamlife's record third straight Platinum award from Reader's Digest. Philamlife president and CEO Jose L. Cuisia Jr (2nd from left) is shown receiving the Platinum Trusted Brand plaque together with Philamlife senior vice president and chief marketing officer Lizanne Uychaco (4th from left) during the awarding ceremony at the Manila Peninsula. With them are (from left) Mark Cass, Reader's Digest Asia advertising director, ed-

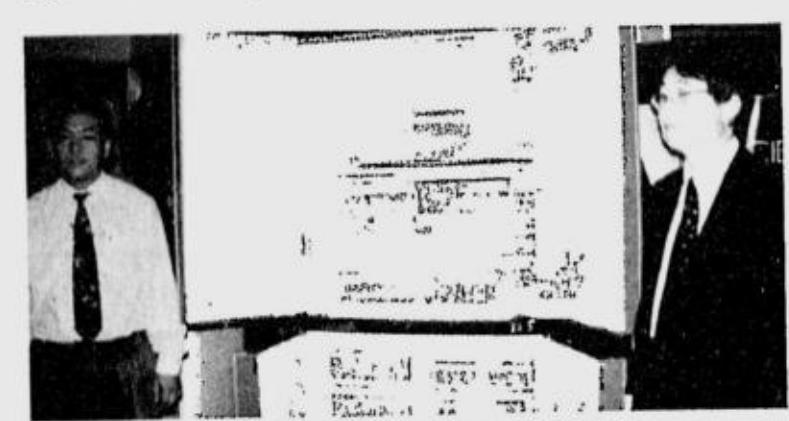
itor-in-chief Jim Plouffe, regional advertising director Simon Cholmeley, and advertising sales director Lillet Yan. Philamlife received the highest score among all the life insurance firms, banks, and investment fund companies chosen by Philippine consumers in the survey, which asked respondents to name their favorite companies across 42 categories and rate them according to quality, value, strong image, innovativeness, trustworthiness, and understanding of consumer needs. Philamlife scored more than double its closest competitor, earning the company an unprecedented third consecutive Platinum award.



PASCUAL

The Drugstores Association of the Philippines (DSAP) an association of drugstores owners nationwide with 2,500 members and composed of more than 5,000 drugstores nationwide through its president, Ma. Erlinda Pascual and convention chair Rodel Vizconde will be having its 10th DSAP National Convention on Sept. 6, 7 and 8 at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ortigas Center. The theme of this convention is 'Expanding Borders'. The highlights of the convention is the opening ceremonies of more than 100 exhibit booths, top caliber speakers (Bo Sanchez is one), two nights of mini concerts by great performers, bigger and better 'deals', plenary sessions of very interesting topics about drugstore business and many more. Registration is on going for delegates and more exhibit booths are still available. For registration and booth registration, call 633-5253 or 631-4254 and look for Jof, Noel or Jane.

Conquer the majestic Mt. Pinatubo
Island Caravan offers up the Pinatubo challenge with its day tour program 'Majestic Climb.' Travelers have two choices for the program. The complete 'Majestic Climb' program is inclusive of transfers from and to Manila, 4x4 vehicles, guides, and travel insurance P3,000. The second option is that travelers drive their own vehicles up to Sta. Juliana, Tarlac before taking the 4x4 vehicles and packing their own lunch, for P2,500. This option is inclusive of guided tours, 4x4 vehicles for the mountain route, and travel insurance. The set date for the Majestic Climb event is May 20. Interested parties can call Island Caravan at 896-1910, 896-7569, and 896-1893.



SHARP ELECTRONICS LAUNCHES NEW TECH

Sharp, the no. 1 LCD TV producer in the world recently unveiled the Biggest Thing to hit the market at a press conference which took place at Dusit Hotel Dahlia and Camella Ballrooms last April 21, 2006. Dubbed as the 'Science of Sharp' press launch, sharp introduced its world-class selection of superior products. The unparalleled technology of the next generation TV: Sharp AQUOS 65-



FAMILY and friends enjoy the guided tour in one of TeleTech's state-of-the-art Customer Management Centers (CMCs).

TeleTech opens Philippines CMCS to families and friends

TELETECH UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE of family—that's why, on March 5 and 12, the doors of the Philippines' customer management centers (CMCs) in Novaliches and Roxas were opened to welcome employees' families and friends. This fun event was dubbed "TeleTech Family Tour Day 2006".

With the adept planning of the CMCs' employee recognition teams, guests were treated to a 20-minute guided tour of the CMCs. This gave them a chance to see the sites' amenities. Many were amazed at how beautiful the offices are with the colorful walls, high-tech facilities, and quiet rooms.

After the tour, employees with their families were led to the activity area for a short program and a meet-and-greet session with the TeleTech management team. Children enjoyed games, entertainment, face painting, and arts and crafts activities.

It's evident that TeleTech is proud of its employees in the Philippines and around the world. "They're all world-class and highly professional," commented Craig Reines, vice president and general manager, North Asia operations. "We want them to feel privileged working for TeleTech. We also want their families, relatives, and neighbors to feel good that they know someone who works for a great company like TeleTech."



TELETECH employees are shown in photo during a nursery-preparation activity at the La Mesa Dam watershed.



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BMW 316i (E36)	Calypso Red	1998	42,290 kms	P550,000.00
BMW 318i Lim.	Titanium Silver	2003	33,000 kms	P1,450,000.00
BMW 318i Executive *	Orient Blue	2004	31,311 kms	P1,950,000.00
BMW 318i M-Sport *	Topaz Blue	2004	25,708 kms	P1,700,000.00
BMW 323i *	Cosmos Black	1999	67,554 kms	P1,000,000.00
BMW 325i Executive *	Titanium Silver	2003	19,884 kms	P1,700,000.00
BMW 325i Executive *	Sienna Red	2004	33,454 kms	P1,850,000.00
BMW 325i Executive *	Black Sapphire	2004	35,000 kms	P1,850,000.00
BMW X5 3.0d Executive	Titanium Silver	2005	7,503 kms	P4,800,000.00
BMW Z4 2.5i Roadster	Maldives Blue	2005	7,094 kms	P3,900,000.00

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BUSINESS

UBS bullish on RP

Swiss firm raises GDP projections

By Doris C. Dumla

THE PHILIPPINES—WITH ITS FALLING BOND yields, rising property prices and rebounding banking sector—has taken the path that led Turkey to an impressive economic boom, said UBS Securities Pte. Ltd.

In a study entitled "Philippines: From Buzz to Boom" dated May 10, UBS senior economist for Southeast Asia Christa Janjic noted that Turkey's successful fiscal adjustments and program to lower inflation had lowered interest rates and bank lending to the government, forcing banks to find new sources of growth.

Since 2003, credits to the private sector in Turkey nearly tripled while credits to households rose more than four times, perking up real investment by an average of 30 percent each year and private consumption by 9 percent, she noted.

She said the boom that followed was extraordinary by any standard: growth in gross domestic product more than doubled to 7.5 percent on average between 2003-2005; the equity market was up 440 percent since the beginning of 2003; and, the Turkish Lira had risen by 20 percent in real terms.

"In many respects, we think the Philippines today looks like Turkey at the beginning of 2003," Janjic said, upgrading GDP forecasts for the country to 5.2 percent this year and 5.8 percent next year, from earlier projections of 4.8 percent and 4.2 percent, respectively.

However, the economist said UBS did not expect the Philippine economy to grow at the same pace as Turkey as the starting point was different and the speed of adjustment "considerably slower."

"But Turkey still provides an important lesson for the Philippine economy as far as the

dynamics of adjustment are concerned. And we don't see why the Philippines could not repeat some of the trends that we saw in Turkey," Janjic said.

"This is particularly true given ongoing micro developments—specifically, reforms in the banking sector and the cyclical recovery in the property market—which should provide the catalysts for stronger lending and, ultimately, economic growth," she said.

But Janjic said among the risks to this bullish scenario were a possible reversal in bond yields, sharply higher global prices that could jack up inflation and bond yields, a renewed blowout of the budget deficit and government borrowing and domestic political volatility.

To date, she said bank lending in the Philippines remained anemic, GDP growth driven almost exclusively by consumption, and investment still sluggish even when bond yields had already come off sharply.

The weak lending growth was attributed to high non-performing loans and assets, weak capital base and high lending rates despite falling Treasury bill and bond yields.

But she said "the building blocks may be coming together" as banks' bad assets had been falling sharply on the back of the Special Purpose Vehicle framework which provides fiscal incentives to the sale of problematic loans and foreclosed properties.

The SPV is likely to be used more extensively going forward as real estate prices have started to rise. This implies that assets are more likely to clear because the gap between ask and bid prices is converging," Janjic said.

She added that bank recapitalization was taking off, with at least six banks intending to raise capital this year while ongoing consolidation in the banking sector was speeding up this process.

DOE to push use of autogas

By Abigail L. Ho

TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF LIQUEFIED petroleum gas for transport, the Department of Energy is coming up with financing schemes to make it easier for small taxi operators to buy the equipment needed to use the alternative fuel.

"We're looking at how to provide assistance to small taxi operators, or those with just 10 units or less," DOE energy utilization and management bureau director Mario Marasigan said in a recent interview.

He said government financial institutions, such as Philippine Postal Savings Bank Inc., could be tapped to provide affordable loans to acquire the conversion kits that cost between P26,000 and P30,000 each.

Development Bank of the Philippines has a financing scheme for the autogas program, but it was not meant for small taxi operators but rather, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), he said.

"We really want to help drivers and small operators because using autogas will save them about P1 a kilometer. That will be a big help to them, especially with the current high oil prices," he said.

He said it would take taxi drivers or operators about 86 days to recover their investment in autogas conversion kits.

The cost of these conversion kits was quite small compared with the potential savings that users could generate from shifting to autogas, he added.

Toyota has GM in its sights

TOKYO—DETROIT'S AILING AUTOMAKERS may be struggling to get out of reverse, but Toyota showed that it is just shifting into high gear.

Toyota, Japan's largest car maker, posted a 17.2 percent jump in net profit, to a record 1.37 trillion yen (\$12.1 billion) in the fiscal year ended March 31.

It was its sixth consecutive year of record profit, enough to make it one of the world's most profitable manufacturers.

Toyota also released a vehicle sales forecast that analysts said shows it is on track to dethrone the floundering General Motors as the world's largest car maker, possibly as soon as this year.

Toyota said its entire group, including Daihatsu Motor and the truck maker Hino, will sell 8.45 million vehicles this fiscal year, 476,000 more than last year.

While GM has not released a forecast, many analysts expect it to drop below last year's 9.17 million vehicles.

GM, which has held the top position for 75 years, is struggling to recover from a \$10.6-billion loss amid labor tension and soaring gasoline prices.

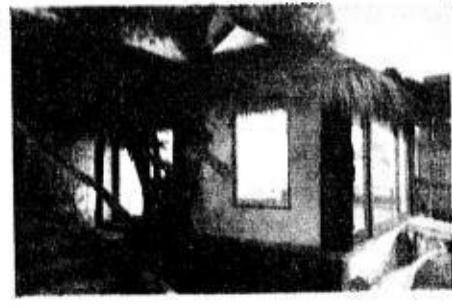
Its first quarter was profitable, but if it were to sell 8 percent fewer cars and Toyota exceeded its projections, then Toyota could become the world's largest automaker.

NYT

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

BUSINESS Friday

WHAT'S INSIDE

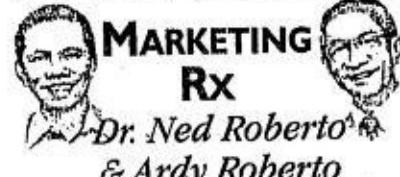


Center
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/B2-3

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Marketing times are a-changing

Coping will mean a shift in strategies, leading experts say

THE IDEAS BEHIND MARKETING HAVE PERPETUATED for as long we can remember, but this era of extreme progress tells us that times are changing, and so must our business approach. As such, Jos Ortega, chair of the National Marketing Conference (NMC), has crafted a remix of an old song.

According to him, the only way to keep up with the changes is to rethink the way we understand consumers and their needs.

Ortega identifies progressive marketing trends that will lead the way to stronger Fil-

ipino businesses going global.

He has designed the NMC and its theme, "All That Jazz: World-Class Innovations" in a way that will cultivate and instill fresh marketing developments into the local mindset.

Ortega names innovation as the first step to stirring the marketing movement.

It is no longer a matter of just research and development, nor is it a luxury by which market leaders get even further ahead, innovation is today the fundamental driver of business growth.

More than the basic product innovation, Orte-

ga applies this principle to the bigger picture of an organization, and it begins in the boardroom.

He cites Ayala Land as the embodiment of innovation generating greater effectiveness, efficiency and productivity.

NMC speaker, Rene Almendras, president of Cebu Holdings Inc., will be expounding on "The Art of Innovation," showing how a unique vision starts with open-minded leaders and corporate transformation from the inside out.

MARKETING/B2-2

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'What are the basic principles of launching a brand on the Internet?' —more marketing advice from Al Ries

HERE'S MORE BRAND AND MARKETING ADVICE from our guest columnist, best-selling marketing author and brand strategist, Al Ries. He is joined by his daughter, Laura Ries, co-author of "The 22 Immutable Laws of Branding" and "The Origin of Brands."

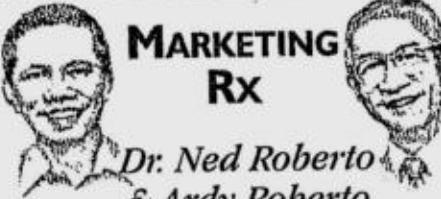
Q: Which marketing tools do you think will survive in the future? Do you expect a new form of marketing for the future?

A: We expect all marketing tools to survive. They just will be used in a different way. Companies will spend much more money on PR to launch brands. Then when brands have be-

come established, they will switch to advertising. In fact, we don't predict much, if any, decline in advertising volume. Only a change in how advertising is being used.

Q: Are the advertising agencies of this world doing the right thing by focusing on creativity?

A: Sure, that's what clients want to buy. Creativity and the more the better. If we were an advertising agency, we would be doing exactly what agencies like TBWA/Chiat Day are doing. The problem is the client. Clients want to buy creativity so they get what they want.



MARKETING RX

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

larity of Toys "R" Us and the Gap?

Toys "R" Us has not done well lately. And one reason is that they have become unfocused with Kids "R" Us and Babies "R" Us. The other chains take precious time away from management, drain resources, and confuse consumers. Baby Gap has only been a modest success. However, I wonder if they would have been more successful if they had given the new store a different name. With a powerful baby name, the chain could have been a big winner.

Q: When can you line extend your own brand?

A: No, we don't. The reason is that the two disciplines involve different skills. It's like the military. Should the air force and the army work together? Sure, that's the way the war in Iraq was fought. Do we think the two services should be combined? No, they require different skills. An air force pilot would not necessarily make a good infantry company commander.

Q: How do you explain the success of Richard Branson and the Virgin Group of products?

A: One of our theories is short term vs long term. While a line extension is a loser in the long term, it can be a winner in the short term. But you can't measure success in the short term only. So we predict that Sir Richard will have problems in the long term.

Kids "R" Us and Baby Gap are line extensions of successful chains, what's wrong with capitalizing on the popu-

Q: Can't you have a focus that is too narrow?

A: In theory, yes you can. For example, maybe left-handed tennis racquets or ice cream for dogs is too narrow a focus to have. But our experience finds that almost no companies have too narrow a focus. People tend

to want to get into everything, which is why most companies are unfocused.

Q: Which are the basic principles for launching a brand on the Internet?

A: First, the site should have a separate and unique name, one that is also short, easy to spell and easy to pronounce. Second, the site should try to be the first in a new category. Amazon was first in books, for example. Third, the primary objective of the site should be to sell products or services, not to become a medium for advertising. Advertising will never become a major factor on the Internet. Why? Because the Internet is "interactive" and it's just too easy for consumers to turn off the advertising.

Our guest columnist, Al Ries, is one of the best known marketing strategists and authors in the world. He will be here in Manila on June 23 to do a one-day brand marketing conference together with his co-author and daughter, Laura Ries. Ries is the author of the international best sellers, "Positioning," "The 22 Immutable Laws of Marketing," (co-authored with Jack Trout), "The 22 Immutable Laws of Branding," "The Origin of Brands," and "The Fall of Advertising and The Rise of PR" (co-authored with Laura Ries). MarketingRx is hosting Al Ries and his marketing advice column until July. If you have any questions for us or for Al Ries, send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

From page B2-1

Marketing times are a-changing

Because creativity is so integral to innovation, companies must break down traditional barriers and introduce new facilities to cultivate ingenuity.

Ortega encourages leaders to allow ideas to grow because while it may appear unsightly as

it sprouts, it may blossom quite beautifully.

Originality needs to be embraced by the CEOs.

Tony Fernandes, group president of AirAsia, speaking on "Building a Culture of Innovation," will discuss changing the

standard, modifying pricing strategies and breaking down the corporate hierarchies that impair many companies today.

Another NMC guest, head of marketing Sandeep Khanna, hails from a company that has used innovation to dominate the mobile communications industry not only in the Philippines but also on a global scale.

Khanna will share the insights behind Nokia "Maintaining Market Leadership through Product Innovations" and highlight how important creativity is for a market that constantly evolves.

Lorenzo Tan, president and CEO of Sun Life of Canada, makes innovation accountable.

At the end of the day, it is the ROI that keeps a company going and Tan promotes "Driving Innovations with Fiscal Soundness" to ensure a practical side to an artistic vision. Furthering the idea of accountable creativity is Paul Roebuck, whose agency, BBDO Guerrero Ortega, was recognized as the most creative ad agency in the Philippines by Campaign Brief Asia.

He will highlight the importance of demonstrating strategic focus on delivering market results amidst winning awards.

In discussing marketing trends, Ortega believes that ideas work best when presented from the world view of the consumers.

As CEO of Brandlab Inc., he emphasizes understanding consumers as people, not unidimensional variables.

He is also pioneering the study of brand anthropology, which incorporates culture and behavior into marketing strategies.

In line with this, the NMC presents "New Research Techniques in an Innovative Environment" with managing partner of Good Thinking, Issa Barron.

Although most techniques have been tried and tested, this age requires new methods that are aligned with modern day problems.

Beyond traditional marketing, innovations are playing a major role in corporate social responsibility.

Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez of the Philippine Daily Inquirer will be discussing the value of partnerships that benefit the community.

Community building then is not an option for spare time and funds but is a central part of a company's brand and business plan.

Finally, there is the evolving role of brands beyond just a marketing tool.

Ortega sees brand building as the force behind Filipino companies making it international.

With this, Martin Roll, president of Venturerepublic, a strategic advisor on branding excellence, will expound on "Asian Brand Strategy: A New Boardroom Paradigm."

This means elevating discussions on the brand from the marketing department to the board level as it drives the whole company.

In the same way, Joerg Breuer, president of BMW Philippines, delves into "The Brand as the Central Operating Principle" and stresses that every company decision must be driven by the values of the brand.

From design to employees, from sales to engineering, its vision should be clearly manifested.

The NMC will feature Abbott Philippines, a pharmaceutical industry leader, directed by a leader who is also the brand pioneer, Edwin Feist.

As president of Abbott Philippines and regional director for Philippines, Australia and New Zealand, Feist pilots the creative process of brand building, emphasizing that innovation starts in the boardroom.

Johnlu Koa, the founder and CEO of French Baker, demonstrates the importance of making day-to-day decisions based on a precise and purposeful vision.

The NMC will be held from May 18-19, 2006 at the Hotel Philippine Plaza. Regular rate of P8,500. Call 634-4890, 634-5722 or 6361451 for inquiries. You can also email philmarket@pldtDSL.net or visit www.philmarket.com.ph for more information.

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Pre-bid Conference	May 12, 2006 (1:00 p.m.)
Deadline for the submission & Opening of Eligibility Requirements (for Non-Accredited Suppliers) & LOI for Accredited Suppliers (Specialized BAC Office)	May 25, 2006 (2:00 p.m.)
Deadline/Opening of Bids (Specialized BAC Office)	May 26, 2006 (10:00 a.m.)

Complete sets of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents will be available for issuance at the Specialized BAC Office, 2nd Floor, City Hall Bldg., Bayawan City (Tel. (035) 531-0800) upon payment of the prescribed non-refundable fee.

Prospective Bidders shall duly accomplish eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals and submit the same in 2 (two) separate sealed envelopes on or before the date indicated above.

The Specialized Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to accept or reject all bids or part thereof, to waive formally therein or to accept such bids considered most advantageous to the City Government of Bayawan.

(Sgd.) Atty. VICTORIANO D. ALABASTRO
Chairman, Specialized Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - May 5 & 12, 2006)



LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2006-046(2)	1,000 bds. Jacket for Savings Passbook with Logo, 5-5/8" x 4-1/8"	P 214,500.00	LBP Funds
	9,000 bds. Jacket for Savings Signature Card 5" x 7-1/2"	1,845,000.00	
	1,000 pcs. Checkbook Jacket, 8-6/8" x 7"	13,500.00	
	3,000 bds. Plastic Jacket for ATM Card (Green)	855,000.00	
2006-045	1,200 units Personal Computer	P 54,000,000.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements is scheduled on May 31, 2006 at 1:00 PM and pertinent documents may be obtained from the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 for ITB No. 2006-046 (2) and P6,000.00 for ITB No. 2006-045.

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on May 18, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - May 5 & 12, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Surigao del Sur
Municipality of Cantilan

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

May 3, 2006

INVITATION TO RE-BID

The Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Education, has received an Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in the amount of P1,749 Million and under Loan Agreement #JP-P200, towards the financing of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP) dated December 28, 1999. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments for the new construction of school buildings. In view hereof, the Government of the Philippines through the DepEd-SEDIP with the participation of the Local Government Unit (LGU) of the Municipality of Cantilan as implementor, hereinafter called the Agency, wishes to receive bids for the new construction of the following listed school buildings at Cantilan National High School located at Barangay Megasang, Cantilan, Surigao del Sur:

- 1) Two Storey Four Classroom Building with Science Laboratory, Faculty Room and Toilets
- 2) Two Storey Four Classroom Building with Library, Guidance Room and Toilets
- 3) Two Storey Six Classroom Building

Disbursement of the ODA loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans." Any Party other than the Department of Education shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, the Agency will take appropriate measures for finance. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as DepEd-SEDIP under contract funded with JBIC ODA loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC:

- 1) Will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
- 2) Will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a stated period of time, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA loans if it, at any time, determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, another contract financed by JBIC ODA loans or other Japanese ODA.

Bidding is open to all Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (CAB) - registered contractors or joint venture contractor, with PCAB License at least Medium A classification on Building. Prospective Bidders/Contractors shall meet the minimum qualifying criteria of three (3) years construction experience. The schedule of activities for the above listed projects is indicated below:

- Submission of Letter of Intent - May 9-18, 2006
- Issuance of Bid Documents - May 15-18, 2006
- Pre-Bid Conference - May 19, 2006 - 2:00 PM
- Re-Bid Opening - May 30, 2006 - 2:00 PM

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2006

B2B

BUSINESSFriday

Center blends best of East, West



BIO-SEARCH gathers the country's top micro, small, and medium entrepreneurs and give them focused exposure.

Herbal, organic products take center stage in expo

THE TOP EXPORTERS OF EVERYTHING natural, herbal and organic are coming together to showcase their products at the Bio-Search, the country's leading health and wellness show, organized by the Center for Trade Exhibitions and Missions.

During the three-day gathering that runs until May 14, Bio-Search's trade buyers and the general public will be treated to various displays of organically certified natural food and beverages, plant-based skin care and beauty products, aromatherapy and essential oils formulated for safe use.

Bio-Search will also showcase herbal food supplements producers and health spa and fitness facilities that will re-acquaint the public with various healing and therapeutic methods, such as the hilot technique.

The show's various offerings for the past decade has identified it as a venue of choice by clean and green or environment-friendly enthusiasts.

This year's settings, for example, have been inspired by a back-to-basics theme that revolves around the significance of celebrating life through proper and careful nurturing of the self, positive energies, and relationship with those around us.

A prime location of highland teas and coffee blends sourced from the northern and southern Luzon provinces will be

featured in the Philippine Herbal Beverage Setting.

Bote Central Inc.—the quality manufacturer of Arengga Vinegar—leads the presentation of Rediscovering Vinegar, an informative exhibit that highlights the flavors of different vinegar condiment sourced from cane, palm and nipa.

The Spa Association will present the local healing, restorative and therapeutic modality popular with traditional and alternative medicine, the hilot massage.

It will be demonstrated back-to-back with other different types of massage.

Complementing this is a Natural and Organic Tableau by the Organic Producers Trade Association (Opta) where fresh fruits and vegetables will be available.

Aside from the retailing and order taking during the show, visitors will be treated to company presentations and lecture forums led by experts and key industry players.

Students, particularly, look to Bio-Search as another bastion of learning, where they discover various herbs and medicinal plants transformed into nutraceuticals (food supplements), phytopharaceuticals (natural personal skin care), and cosmeceuticals (plant-based beauty products).

Some of these have found their way to the supermarkets and drugstores.

By Tina Arceo-Dumla

THE PHILIPPINES IS SUCCESSFULLY WORKING its way into the moneyed tourists' list of places to go to—and investors are smelling an opportunity.

This explains the construction boom in the hotel industry, particularly in the beach destinations of Cebu and Boracay, in anticipation of the arrival of as many as five million tourists a year by 2010.

The rosy projections on the tourism industry were also what encouraged the group of Singaporean and Filipino investors to put up Amezcua Wellness Centre, a unique wellness destination, along Katipunan Avenue in White Plains, Quezon City.

Amezcua general manager Renu Gidoomal tells the INQUIRER that Amezcua was set up to take advantage of the expected growth in medical tourism in the Philippines.

Medical tourism means getting foreigners to come to the Philippines to have operations done, submit themselves to a thorough executive check-up, or just enjoy spa treatments with that distinct Filipino brand of service.

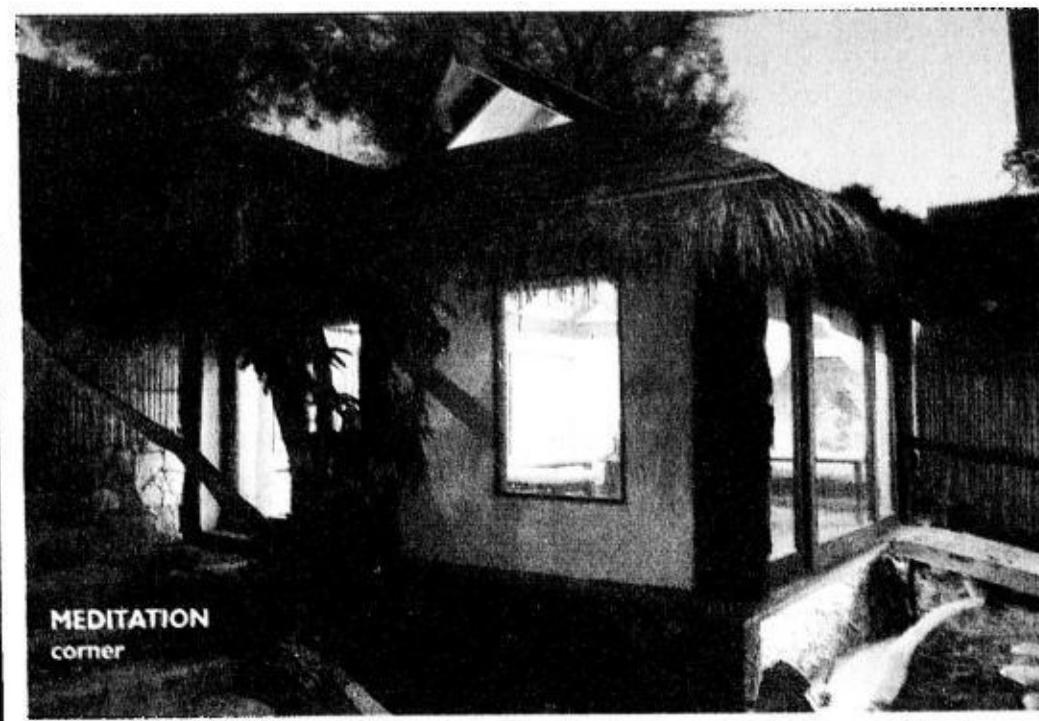
This kind of tourism has done wonders for Thailand and India, which have projected themselves as prime destinations for wellness and relaxation, and Amezcua feels that the Philippines can and should be able to do the same.

"Medical tourism is a growing trend, and the government has put in place policies that are good for the industry," she says.

Gidoomal cites the Department of Tourism's aggressive marketing of the country's medical and spa facilities in foreign markets, particularly in China, Korea and Japan.

She says it also helps that the spa and wellness industry in the Philippines is organized and working as a group to maintain high standards and to keep tourists coming in and leaving satisfied.

Amezcua, said to be the first urban medspa in the Philippines, hopes to get a big slice of the market by positioning itself as a one-



MEDITATION corner

stop destination for spa treatments and alternative health care, which is in demand in more economically advanced countries.

Clients can choose from a varied list of programs for holistic healing experience: acupuncture, live blood analysis, body terrain analysis, colonic hydrotherapy and various herbal wraps.

Treatments that Amezcua claims will restore the body and spirit include the Green Coffee Cocoon, to facilitate the elimination of impurities, and the Sabai Stone Massage and signature AromaMoor treatment to combat the effects of fatigue and stress.

The country's traditional acupressure treatment, Dagdagay, to help boost the immune system, also figures prominently on Amezcua's menu of services.

Because the center believes that true health comes from a balance of body, mind, emotion and spirit, Amezcua also offers yoga, pilates and T'ai Chi classes, as well as a wet/dry sauna to relax the body.

Amezcua is built on its so-called 3H formula, which stands for hospitality, hotel and hospital.

Hospitality, Gidoomal says, means that the clients will enjoy a high level of comfort. Hotel stands for service excellence and the accompanying amenities and design, while hospital means having a staff of qualified and licensed practitioners to answer clients' medical needs.

"We want to bring what hotels and hospitals have in one place, to be truly a spa and wellness destination," she says.

Gidoomal says places like Amezcua are sprouting all over the world because people truly love to be pampered, even those who are sick, so why not extend the spa experience to the medical field.

Amezcua opened in February this year and the patronage has been encouraging enough to convince investors led by Quest Vacation International Singapore to eventually look at putting up more facilities.

In the meantime, Gidoomal says Amezcua is hoping to link with travel agencies from the United States, Europe, the United Kingdom and neighboring Asian countries to bring even more tourists to the Philippines, and to Amezcua.

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GRACE D.
Limjap

BUSINESS Friday

What the rich want, they get

Card firm introduces concierge services to pamper members

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

HERE'S AN INTERESTING FACT ABOUT Manila's rich: In less than a year, the affluent cardholders of American Express spent about a quarter of a billion pesos for retail (shopping) and travel related (more shopping and dining out) expenses.

With such spending power, businesses have no choice but to deal with the idiosyncrasies of the well to do, which is why Amex introduced its concierge services.

Affluent members are willing to pay for their requests

Similar to the concierge desk of top hotels, Amex is there to fulfill its cardholders' requests.

One cardholder, for instance, asked the concierge to look for a yacht to bring his guests to his weekend house by the beach and celebrate his birthday.

Another cardholder asked for peonies to give to a special someone.

Peonies are round flowers that are usually pink, crimson or white in color, and are not available locally.

Amex imported a bunch.

Of course, all these come with a fee, but if the client is willing to pay ...

American Express peso platinum card marketing head Grace D. Limjap says the firm has a 15-year history in serving the rich.

Amex estimates that there are 47 million affluent individuals in the Asia-Pacific, and the number will likely increase to 53 million by 2008.

Share of rich individuals

"The Philippine market has its share of affluent individuals. The American Express peso platinum card has been a beneficiary of the buying power of the affluent as shown by the number of membership rewards (MR) points earned by our card members," she says.

"Within a few months from launch, our card members earned a total of over 100 million MR points. Card members must spend P45 to earn one point. While we had double MR points until December 2005, the number of MR points earned will show you how our card members have spent in a relatively short period of time," Limjap adds.

American Express recently conducted a study of the rich in Singapore called "Inside the Affluent Space."

The study shows that "the affluent no longer define themselves just by what they own, but also by what they have experienced," Amex says in a statement.

Limjap says, "while the study was done in Singapore, our market as well as the other markets in the region do benefit from this kind of initiative as we all serve the affluent in our respective markets."

"We can say that the affluent have common behaviors regardless of geographic or racial affiliations. Like for the Philippines, this helps us come up with promotions or offers as well as benefits that suits our peso platinum card members' needs," she adds.

"It's clear that luxury is moving from the tangible to the intangible," observes Ian Fish, president of American Express Bank Philippines.

"The intangibles focus on the experiential and emotional value of an event such as a trip to an exotic destination or a dinner specially prepared by a well-known chef. If the experience makes a good story, it's even better," he says.

Wealthy people crave experience

At the same time, the study points out that the wealthy desire to be freed from the complexity of making luxury choices.

The study is based on conversations with affluent individuals as well as prestige product and service providers.

According to the White Paper on Inside the Affluent Space, there is a continued unprecedented growth in wealth creation and tremendous opportunities for brands, products and services that cater to the affluent.

In 2005, 42 million of the rich individuals with liquid assets of between \$50,000 and \$300,000 lived in the Asia-Pacific region.

The White Paper highlighted that businesses succeed and grow based on how they connect with their customers, how they deliver on their promise, and how they innovate with an understanding of not what's "now" but rather by knowing "what's" next.

The main points of the study, conducted last March, is the New Ritual of Luxury: "Talk-value" is the new luxury. Limjap says this means that affluent individuals are no longer just seeking to purchase luxury items. They are also seeking unique experiences that make them feel special.

In the Philippines, for instance, members spend a lot on retail as well as travel to exotic as well as popular destinations.

This explains the popularity of personal chefs who will create meals in your home and the thrill of eating a P1,500 meal in a special Tagaytay restaurant with extraordinary landscaping.

Passion has no price. This means that the appetite to fulfill passions—be it a meal from a Michelin rated chef or a Bose sound system—is growing. And affluent consumers will spend to fulfill those passions.

The new definition of exclusive is "Made Just for Me!" Affluent consumers are seeking to assert their sense of self and being special through items and experiences made just for them. This explains the popularity of customized bags which feature favorite photos of the owner.

The "ordinary" is precious, too. Affluent consumers also enjoy ordinary pleasures.

It is not beyond them to eat hawker's fare or in the Philippines—to exchange rewards points for SM gift vouchers.

Privilege is not having to think. Affluent consumers don't want to have to make too many choices. They have money to spend but little time to waste having to choose from among so many options.

They appreciate merchants and companies that do the thinking for them.

"This is why we make it a point to provide experiential events and benefits that our card members appreciate e.g. Flamenco classes and pottery sessions," says Limjap.

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LIFESTYLE



CORAL skinny belt with brass buckle from Zara, metallic gold belt with wooden buckle from Salvatore Ferragamo, wide black leather belt from Prada, weave belt from Zara, navy patent belt with gold buckle from Gucci
PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO MAGAZINE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
0907 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

Belts are the way to go

FOR A CHANGE, HERE'S fashion we all can use. By we, I mean women whose bodies are real, whose bulges are too real they're almost surreal, women who don't stand model-tall and don't have nubile navels.

These are women who, if they must get into a gown, buy, almost instinctively, waist- or abs-flattening underwear called Flexees. And, they're so up to date with the trendiest diet but get too lazy to work on their "abs" regularly in the gym.

In short, the real women who must constitute 80-90

percent of the clothes market.

The good news is many of the current and upcoming trends are good for hiding the "Pinay puson" (must be in our genes).

Foremost of these is the belt, which is back in a big way. It's all over Vogue and the glossies—belts in all kinds of design, size and material: leather, woven fabric, plastic, you name it—from leather belts to cummerbunds. They are thin, medium-width, and wide. The "it" belt is wide and big, where your eye gets drawn to the buckle. While in previous seasons the neckpiece was the design statement, today it's the buckle which is the cutting edge.

Such style-statement belts draw the eye away from the woman's big hips and toward the waist. But then the waist is cinched, thus controlled and made to look narrower.

Unlike in previous seasons where the belt hugged the hips, today's belt is at the waist. So it's back to where it should be, but not so tight it suffocates. For a while there you thought the low-rise jeans or skirt would last until the 22nd century, and the earth would belong to only those with the perfect navel to bare. We've been "midribbed" to death, and everything was focused on the hips.

The focus now has moved from the hips to the waist. You can go for a wide belt that holds your waist just enough to make it seem slimmer and give it shape, and in the process tightening up your "puson" as well.

However, unlike in previous "belted" eras, today's belt-up look is not structured and constricting. It's softer. The belt can only clinch the put-together look—like a tank underneath a cotton top or a jacket. The belt is used to unify the mix-match coordinates. (As always, your look shouldn't be so put-together as to seem contrived and boring.)

The belt goes well with a dress, jacket/pants, pencil skirt, full skirt—anything you want to look "waisted."

The other trend that suits women who have something to hide—and which woman doesn't—is, as you know by now, the empire cut

BELTS/C4

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VIOLINIST Gil Lopez Kabayao, Sen. Mar Roxas; the affair's host, TV personality, Korina Sanchez; Gemma Cruz Araneta



DR. Vivian Sarabia, former Negros Gov. Bitay Lacson, Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio, Tina Sarabia Lacson and Ruth Carpio



PHILIPPINE Academy of Ophthalmology president Dr. Minguita Padilla-Lopez and husband Dr. Vic Lopez



FUN Anton Ramos and Dunhill's hot-hot mover and shaker Derick Villarino



STEF Cabal, Kat Cruz, Stephen Ku, Michelle Pamintuan and her favorite man, Embassy's Eric Cua; and JR Isaac



BUSINESSMEN pals Gem Chua and Lance Go



MAN of the hour. Whiz DJ Kaskade rocks the Coconut Place in Bora.



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GEOFF Rodriguez and Tisha Silang



HENRY So Uy, PAL's executive vice president for commercial group; Butch Jimenez, Smart's head for wireless consumer division; Jaime Bautista, PAL president and COO; Joanne Rae Ramirez of People Asia; and Mon Isberto (standing), Smart's head of public affairs



DR. CHRISTINE Sarabia-Heras, Iloilo's popular Mayor Jerry Trenas, guest of honor Luli Arroyo, Salvador Sarabia Jr., Dr. Sandra Sarabia-Gomez, Patricia S. Espinosa and Federico Sarabia III

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SYLVIA Heras; Antonietta Chan and mother, Doña Florence Chan; Maryann Ansaldo Chan and Maricris Heras



JOE Fores, Charlie Carmona and his favorite gal, adorable Leana Farrales; (standing) Mulsy Regala and Dan Morales



OUR PALANGGA Ethel Timbol, Mons Tantoco, Chit Lijauco, PAL's Babie Aragon and Ria Domingo



AJ Pangilinan of Adreflex and Felix Cruz of PAL



SMART'S Maureen Palomares, Cecille Gregorio with PAL's Kit Javier



SMART'S Ricky Isla and Jane Basas, with Adreflex's Clang Garcia



MABUHAY Miles team. Mike Dizon, Peggy Calawod, Mary Ann Timbol, Eileen Gallindez and Margie Mia

rocked to the beat of Superfly DJ Karl Ty, thanks to international superstar DJ and producer Kaskade, *palanggas*.

"Dunhill has always espoused perfection, from the stringent procedures in the creation of each and every tobacco product, and this carries over into all of its activities," explained public relations officer G.P. Reyes, but who else.

This "classics remix" bash started off with a special set by renowned percussion group, Pinikpikan, whose traditional rhythms, raw chants, wild percussions and flaming rock, complemented the ethnic-electronic beats of the DJ.

Ballet Manila then unleashed its captivating moves to the charged beats of the Kaskade anthem, "Stepping Out!"

Then Kaskade, the musical personification of Dunhill's "perfectionist philosophy," took control of the booth, sending the crowd into a wild frenzy. He played chart-toppers such as "It's You, It's Me" and "Empty Streets," and others. "Where I Am" was his first track, played amid glorious fireworks.

An awesome three-hour set played on as a variety of Smirnoff specialty drinks at the VIP lounge kept pouring and a selection of the fine Dunhill cigarettes were distributed.

Little did the partygoers know that the Kaskade Party would continue three days later at Club Paraw in swinging Boracay, *palanggas*.

Check this out, more Dunhill Dimensions and Superfly events will be hitting our shores sooner than soon, *palanggas*.

Smart miles

Hey, *palanggas*, did you know that our pal Philippine Airlines' jetset pack, the Mabuhay Miles members, can now earn super extra miles through Smart Communications' International Services.

Mabuhay Miles has partnered with Smart Communications for "Come Fly with Smart," a program for individual account subscribers of Smart Infinity, Smart Gold and Addict, *palanggas*.

From April 2, 2006-March 31, 2007, Smart postpaid subscribers can earn one precious mile for every three minutes of IDD call, every three international SMS or for every MMS sent, or for every P300 billed usage for roaming services. Starting May 1, subscribers may also earn one mile for every P60 billed usage for WAP or Internet browsing.

It gets even better, dahlings, because from April 2, 2006-Jan. 31, 2007, subscribers who get new Smart postpaid plans and those renewing their current Smart postpaid plans may earn enough miles to go on an awesome round-trip vacation to as far as Sydney or Melbourne, Australia, would you believe?

"We're staying to our commitment to offer nothing but the best service to our customers," said Menardo Jimenez, Smart Wireless consumer division head.

"We are certain both our Mabuhay Miles members and Smart subscribers will appreciate the benefits and rewards that this partnership offers them," said Henry So Uy, Mabuhay Miles vice president.

Beach stunners



FASHIONABLE FLORALS. Sun 'n' Sand floral bikini, sunglasses by Hawaiian sun, charm and beaded bracelets by RDS

MODEL KATHY MOYA
PHOTOS PAT DY
MAKEUP LALA FLORES
STYLING MIREN MENDOZA



SEEIN' SPORTS. Sun 'n' Sand polka-dot keyhole bikini, crochet scarf and beaded necklace

BEFORE HEADING TO THE BEACH THIS summer, check out Robinsons Department Store (RDS) for stylish bathing suits and other swim basics.

Any "body" can look good on the beach with the right style. The secret to this is finding an affordable swimwear that flatters your body type, complements your skintone and reflects your fashion personality.

For instance, monokinis and classic maillots with elegant prints and patterns that distract the eyes away from the swimsuit provide tummy control and are great alternatives for round-shaped figures. Girls with small busts should opt for suits that provides subtle enhancement. An enticing two-piece halter-style swimwear is an excellent choice for slim-skinny types.

Tankinis or cleverly cropped thick strap tank tops and a classic bikini bottoms are best for those with long torsos and who need bust support without sacrificing style and flexibility. This is a flattering two-piece wonder that can be worn in or out of the water, while swimming, jogging or playing beach volleyball.

Got an hourglass figure? Your much sought-after shape allows you to wear any type of swimwear. So why don't you slide into a chic cutout or a bustier bandeau and celebrate your features by drawing attention to your best assets?

More than swimwear are sunglasses, accessories, wraps and cover-ups that keep you protected under the sun in style. Sarongs, shawls or sheer tunics are smart additions to your already trendy getup.

All these are available at RDS, which branches in Robinsons Malls, Waltermart Malls, Tutuban Center, Metropolis Star and Festival Mall in Alabang and Neko Mall Pampanga. Visit www.rds.com.ph

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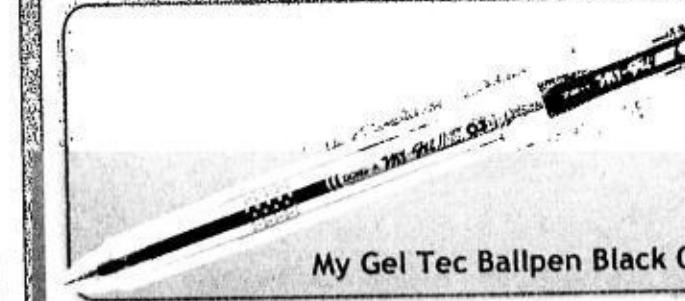
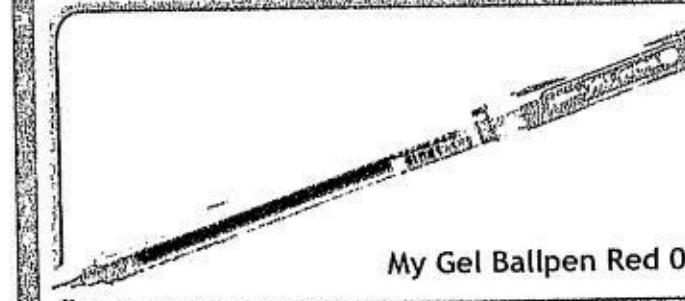
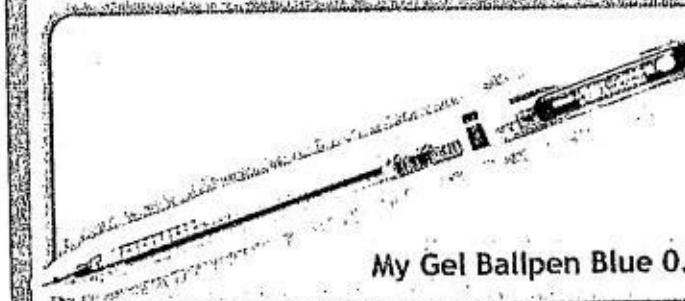
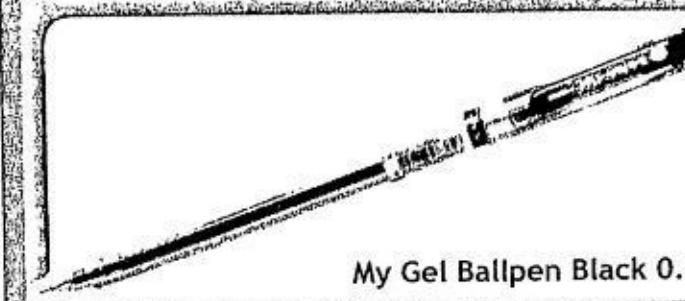
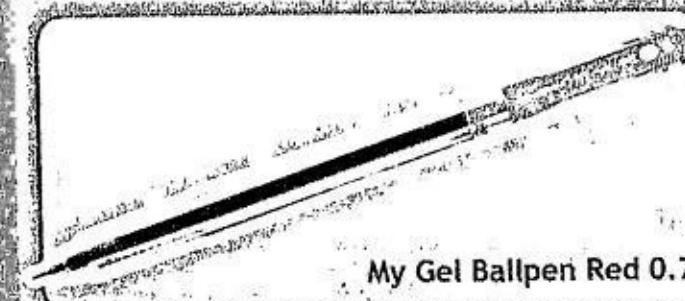
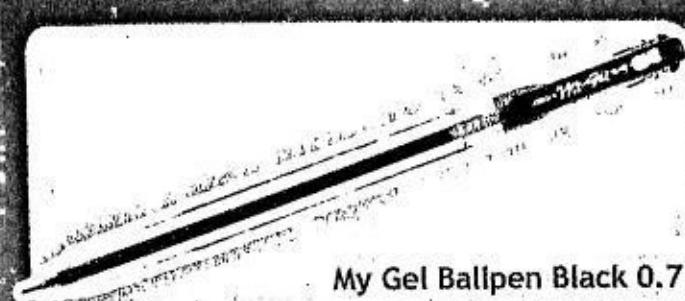
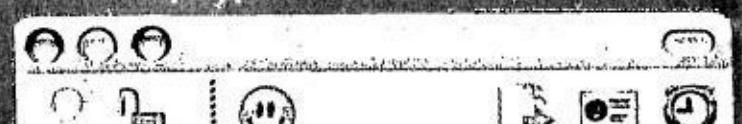
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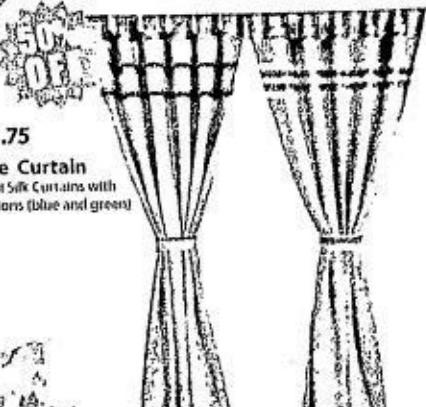
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P 599.75
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Lark Shower Curtain
72" x 72" Double Deluxe Shower
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P 299.75
Lark 4 Pcs. Bathroom Set
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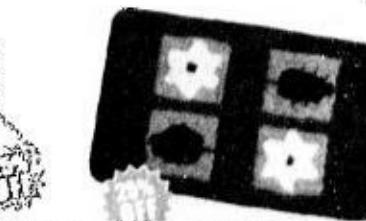
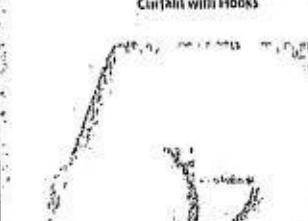
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P 399.75
Lark 4 Pcs. Bathroom Set
4 Pcs. Acrylic Bath Accessories Set



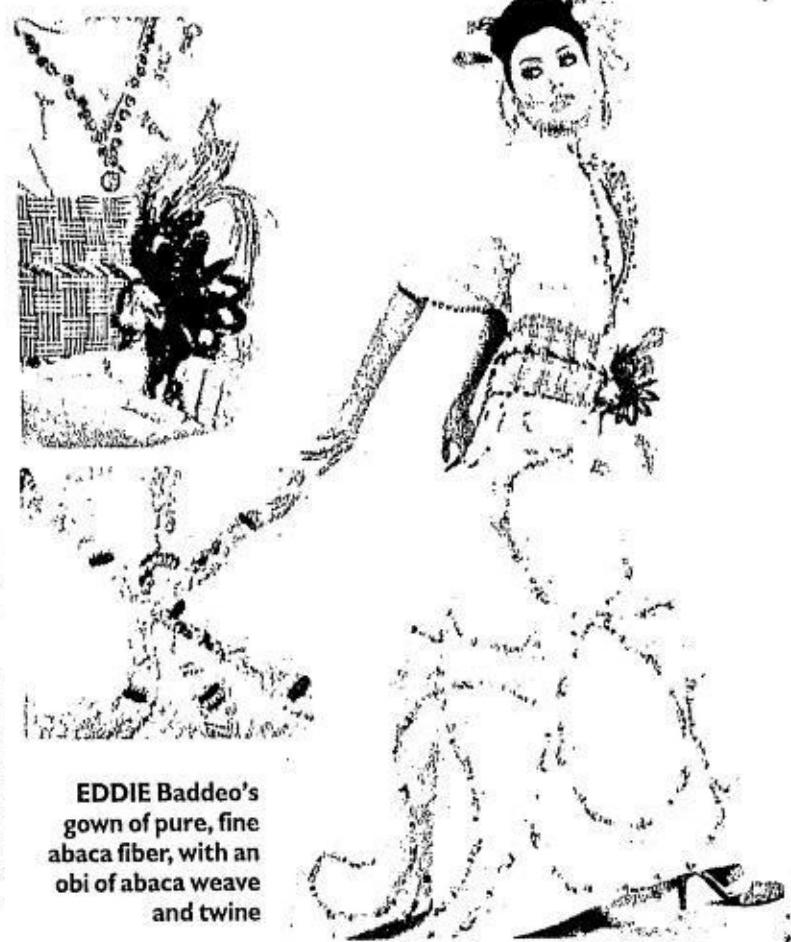
Abaca couture

ABACA, THE VERSATILE TWINE GROWN IN the Bicol region and which has a thousand and many uses in many industries from automotive to cosmetics, has found its way into fashion. A number of Filipino designers have come up with chic ways of using the versatile abaca in their haute couture creations.

In the recently launched "Abaca Philippines,"

a coffee-table book authored by Lalaine Villa-fuerte-Abonal and published by Rep. Luis Villa-fuerte which traces the origins of abaca growth and the many products into which it can be manufactured, fashion designer Eddie Baddeo made an original creation from abaca fiber: a gown of pure, fine abaca fiber edged with natural coconut buttons. The quilted shantung skirt is further embellished with abaca filaments and coco beads. An obi of abaca weave is stylized with abaca twine and hair and matching shoes are made wholly from abaca.

Photo shows Baddeo's couture gown at the Ayala Museum in Makati, modeled by JP Abinuman, and hair and makeup by Heidi Balicha of Bambi Fuentes salon and Eric Maningat of Studio 546.



EDDIE Baddeo's gown of pure, fine abaca fiber, with an obi of abaca weave and twine

Belts are the way to go

From page C1

or baby doll. Just make sure it's constructed well.

Keira for Chanel, Jane Fonda for L'Oréal

Today's "it" girl Keira Knightley is the new image model of the fragrance Chanel Mademoiselle for the young. She's taking over the place of Kate Moss, whose substance use apparently doesn't stop with fragrance.

Guess who L'Oréal's newest celebrity image model is? Jane Fonda—at 68 years old. According to WWD, Fonda is endorsing Age Re-Perfect Pro-Calcium Treatment Line. She joins L'Oréal's other image models who cut across ages—Beyoncé Knowles, Scarlett Johansson, Penelope Cruz, Eva Longoria. As L'Oréal Paris' international general manager Youcef Nabi says, "Beauty doesn't stop at 30 or 40, and certainly not at 50."

Tina Jacinto is introducing a fashion line at Rustan's. That should see her and her husband Rupert coming here, from New York, more and more often.

Weekend warriors

The annual international triathlon was held in Subic over the weekend—not your run-of-the-mill sports event. It gathered men and women who are fully committed to an active

lifestyle, while being the fiercest businessmen and corporate executives the rest of the week.

It must have been exhilarating for these corporate honchos who finished the event: HSBC's Warner Manning, ABS-CBN Publishing's Ernie Lopez, Van Melle Mentos' Niels Hab, PetPlans' Larry Ocampo, Fitness First's Mark Ellis, Nina Papagayo's Frank Lacson, Unilab's Joey Torres who did the sprint distance, and his sister, Nona Torres.

Meanwhile, tennis diehards at Palms Country Club in Alabang had a different idea for a *despedida* for fellow member Noel Oriello of Nokia, who's joining Nokia Indonesia. Members and friends had a "Noel Tennis Tournament"—led by tennis committee chair RJ Enriquez, Noel's wife Thelma, and Anthony Villarosa.

Divided into green and blue teams were Le Parge's Lizza Vicaldo and Sheila Aguinaldo, Carms Tirado, Bing and Joyce Santos, ABS-CBN's Raffy Mangabat and wife Wilma, Arge Hubilla, Yoshikazu Uchida, Maricar Hofiena, Ariel Crisostomo, Malou Garbo, Rey Castro, Ricky Sy, Joey Verzo, Gretch Capinpin, Shelly Mojica and Jerry Chua.

Whether it's triathlon or tennis or badminton, the city's legion of weekend warriors is surely growing. After all, you need to sweat off the stress. Work hard, and you want to play harder.

C4

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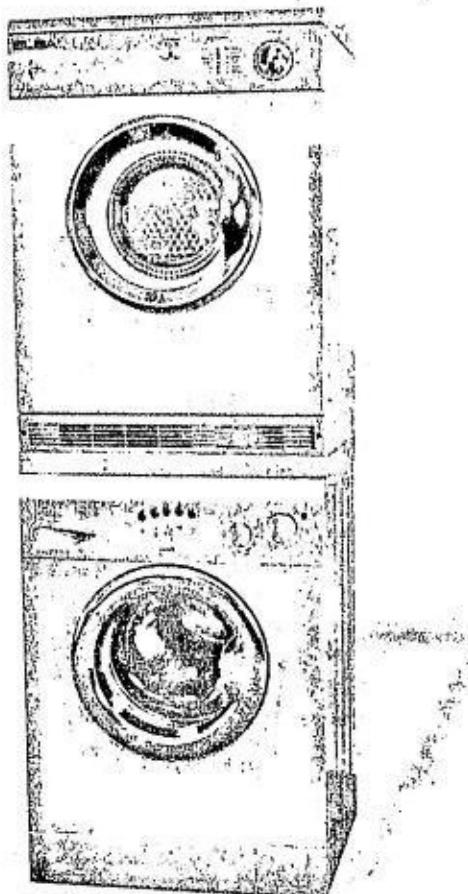
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FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Canon

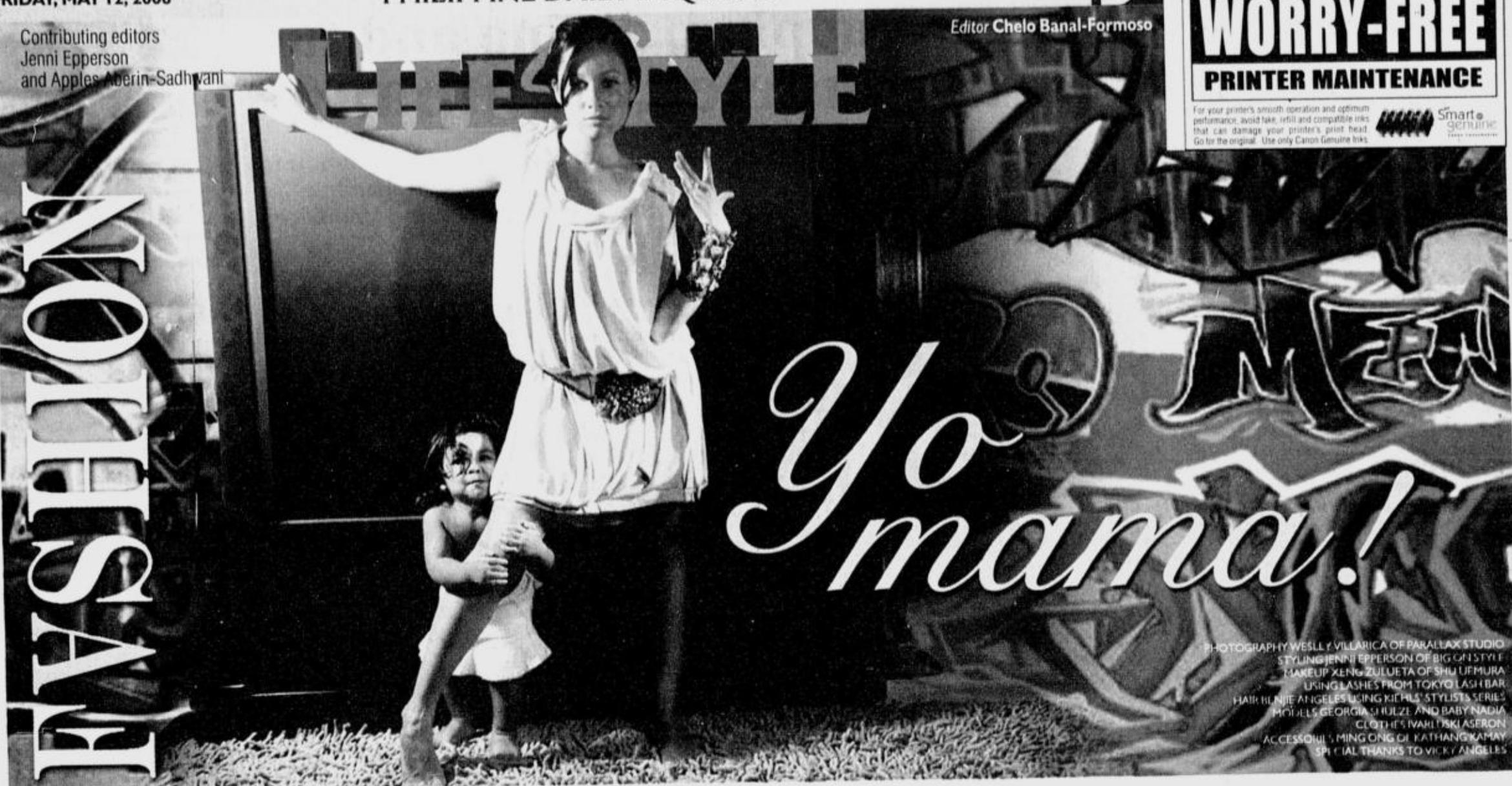
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MILF!

[Mothers In Lovely Frocks]

From Red Box to red carpet,
PTAs to parties, what must
Demi-wannabe moms don?
Two words: Look haute!

WITH A NINE-TO-FIVE job, bills to pay, a husband to attend to and kids to feed, the closest thing you'll ever get to looking like Demi is when your shirt is covered in mud—not from pottery foreplay, but from washing the dog.

When you were single the only thing you've probably worried about was getting an appointment with the hottest hair colorist in town, squeezing a "maniped" during lunch break and scoring lacy underwear. That's hot.

Domestic bliss is more than just about preparing meals for the family, decorating the home, or doing the grocery: It's about doing all of those but wearing your sky-high stilettos and oversized

shades and carrying your super-sized tote.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with sharing the love—but letting your *fashyon* self take a back seat from your Mama role—well, it's just plain rubbish.

Dreamy, perhaps? Not so practical, you may say. Well, you've dealt with domestic disasters in every practical way, so the last thing you want to look is domestic.

No time to go to your fave designer's lair? Well, make time! Squeeze in a fitting in your schedule and think of it as quality time for yourself. A little *chika-chika* with your designer can give you a slice of fashion heaven, keeping you sane and "balanced."

I often find myself seeking refuge in my designer friends' shops to take a breather. Over rows of fabrics, Diet Coke and fries, I giddily find out what dreamy designs they've whipped up for Tinsel Town's haute moms.

Recently, I swaggered in the studio of designer du jour, Ivarlusk Aseron (0927-2736583), and found what moms would be buzzing about over the next potluck party: graphic shift dresses and divine dusters perfect for barbecue bonanzas and dish-washing debaucheries.

Ivar is fantastic when it comes to creating silhouettes that skim the body. What Axion is to grease, his designs are to your bulges—they just disappear! Modern trapings perfect for the modern mom!

Accessories

Accessories, too, are the salvation to tired old garb. Copper confections by Ming Ong of Kathang Kamay (0920-9521479) can turn any outfit from crappy to snappy.

Domestic bliss? Forget domestic! Let's focus on bliss. A dress molded to your silhouette... hair coiffed by a master stylist... skin

MILF/D4

www.lacoste.com

un peu d'air sur terre

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THE STORE (GRAND BOULEVARD HOTEL) • GATEWAY MALL, ARANETA CENTER • SM MALL OF ASIA



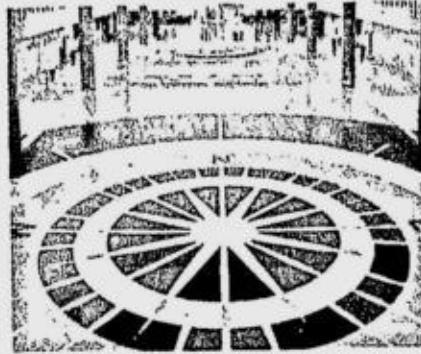
A city of shopping, dining and fun rises in Angeles, Pampanga

Set in a sprawling location at the gateway of the Clark Special Economic Zone (CSEZ), SM City Clark, the newest addition to the dynamic chain of SM Supermalls is the perfect introduction to a myriad of malling pleasures for shoppers in Central Luzon .

CLARK

Fun City

The movies are alive and well - bursting with colors and excitement at SM Cinema. Housed in the 2nd floor of SM City Clark, SM Cinema has high-end facilities and well-appointed seating features. In its interiors, viewers can shed the cares of the day and vicariously live the stories unfolding on the big screen.



Located at the ground floor, the spacious Event Centre is the venue for special events and live performances of guest celebrities.

SM CINEMA

Lots of fun await Clark movie goers with SM Cinema's opening promos.

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buy 2 tickets
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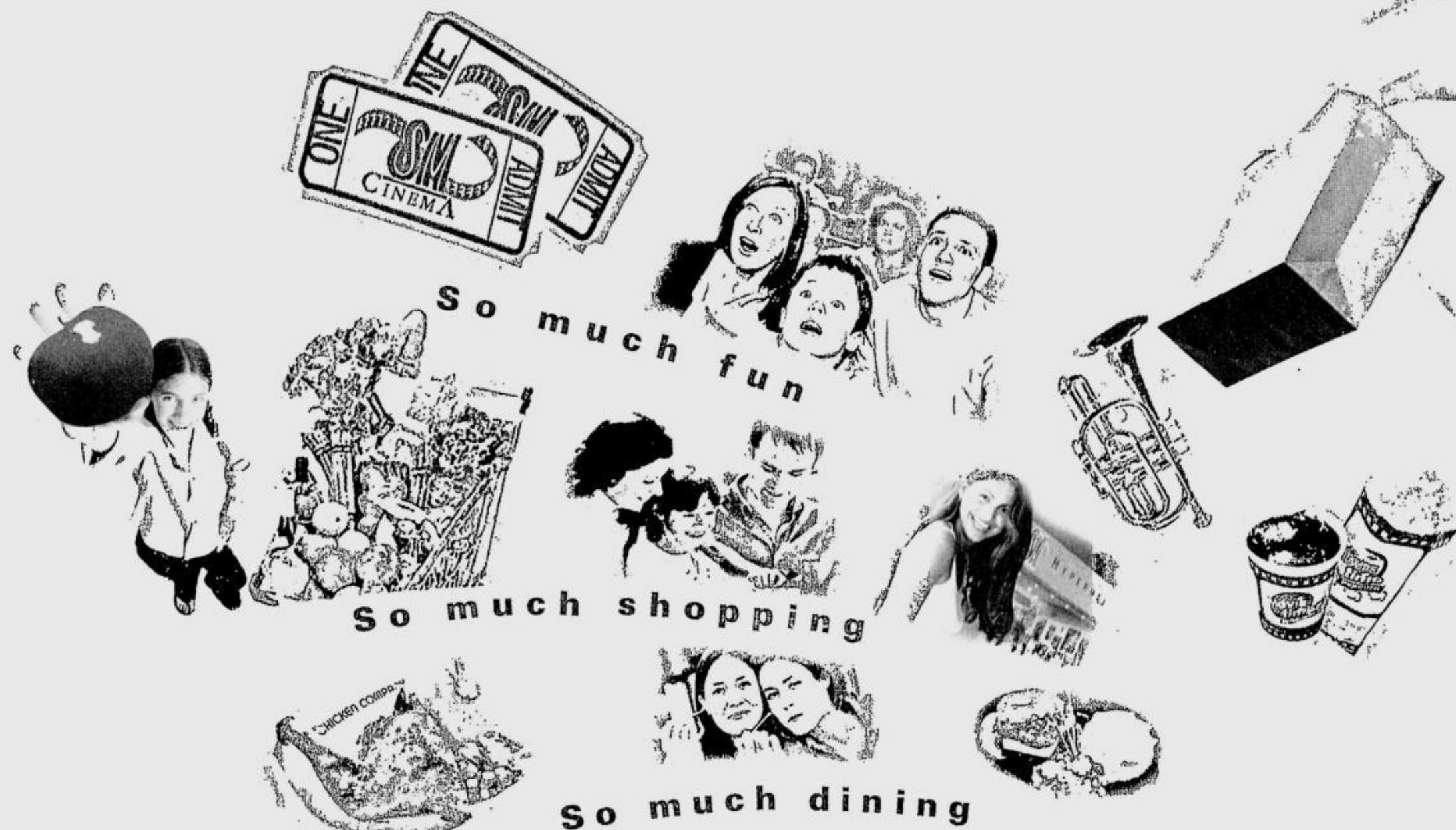
- 1 Computer Showcase
- 50 Internet Cards worth P100 each (50 winners)
- 10 SM Gift Cards worth P1,000 each (10 winners)

Dining City

Looking for the coolest treat to beat the summer heat? All you have to do is hie off to SM City Clark with the whole family and sample the delicious servings dished out by dozens of coffee shops, noodle houses, pizza parlors, snack bars and fastfood centers, particularly SM Foodcourt with its array of delectable offerings.

SM FOODCOURT

Located at the ground floor of the newly-opened SM City Clark, SM Foodcourt offers FREE Milo soft serve with a minimum P100 purchase with Nestea and Nestle Dalandan now thru June 12. **MILO**
Soft Serve



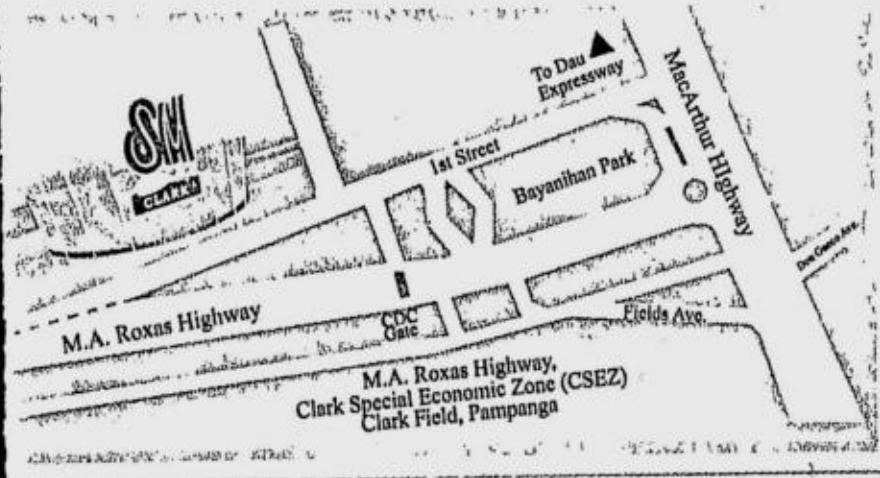
MARIBOLES HIGHWAY, CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE (CSEZ) C

**SM
CLA**

Shopping City

The mall's strategic location in CSEZ makes it accessible not only to residents of Angeles City but also to shoppers from neighboring towns including Mabalacat, Magalang and Porac in Pampanga; and Bamban, Capas and Concepcion in Tarlac.

In addition to scores of jeepneys, taxis and FX vehicles, 10 bus lines ply the route to the mall which has a parking terminal of 2,667 slots.



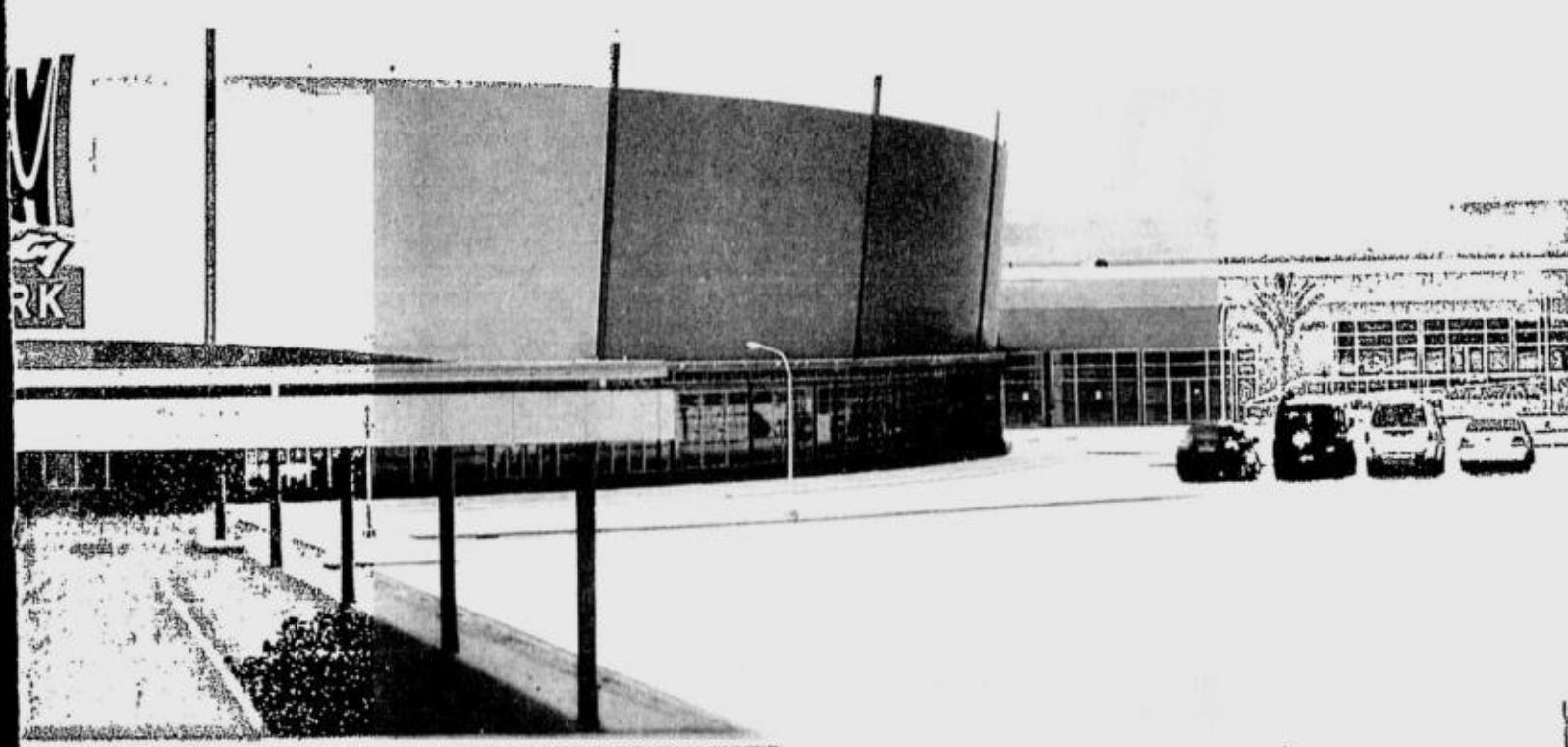
Discover the many things you can do at SM City Clark							
Apparel / Shoes		Jewelry / Watches		Food		Foodcourt Stalls	
American Boulevard	Elynda's Jewelry	Baileco Coffee	Ailing Lucid Slap	EMJ Watch Repair	Banco de Oro	Major Anchors	Ace Hardware
Arrow	Golden Hills Jewelry	Chowking	Ailing Maring's Doll	Com Clark Customer Service Center	China Bank		Our Home
Artwork	Hearts & Arrows	C Italian Dining	Chicken Company	Copyrade	Lobby Cars		SM Department Store
Bayo	Ibny's	French Experience	Inihaw Express	Island Photo	Annie's Belgian Choco		SM Hypermarket
Bench	Jewelle	Congo Grill	Kusina ni Grecia	Great Image	Betty's Native Kakanin		Surplus Shop
Bobby Novenario	Just Gift	Dee Jang Geum	Mister Toppings	Holiday Inn Sales Office	Bulaklak		Watsons
Caterpillar	L.Timo Studio	Dencio's Grille	Sizzling Plates	Jomarks Video	Chicharon Espesyal		Sporting Goods
Celine	Manetite Jewelry	Dunkin Donuts	Tropical Hut	Kameraworld	Choco Choco's Waffle		Chris T. Sports
Cinderella	Ocampo's Jewelry	Flavours of China	Computer / IT Gadgets	LBC	CSV Ballang Passlubong		Sportshouse
Dickies	Orodialm	French Baker	Astanic	Mall and More	Digitiles		Kiosks
Espada	Silverbel	Fortune Seafoods	Gold Sight Telecom	Mr. Quicks	Fruities		Amira Magic
Epitif	Silver Works	Gerry's Grill	Cellsophie	Photoline	Fruits 'n Waffles		Afflornado
Freeway	Timex	Goldilocks	PC AXS	Video City	Ice Sarsap		Anime Cart
Folded & Hung	Unisilvor	Go Nuts Donuts	DG Phones	Picture City	Kettle Corn		Autofad
Geneveve Gozum	Gold & Pearl Jewelry	Greenwich	Electroworld	Freshahs	Key Cards		Bags 'o Beads
Gingerenape		Ikebuk	Flightcom Plaza	David's for Ever	Kingdom		Candy Corner
Giordano		Jollibee	Gameline	Giving Straight	Milkos		Candy Station
Gibaud		Karate Kid	Gentext	GQ Barbershop	Nacho King		Cups and Cakes
Guess		Kenny Rogers	Gigahertz	RL Barbershop	Ogil Dogla		Daisies and Honey
Human		KFC	Globe Business Center	Let's Face It	Pao Express		Eu Iota Perfume
Hush Puppies		Kilaro	Smart Wireless Center	Ricky Reyes	Plato Wraps		Flywear
III Shoes		Mamasuk	Inbox	Skin Renew	Popperoo		Graphic Works
Kamiseta		Max's Restaurant	Nokia Hub	Countors	Scooper		Julus Avenue
Kashieca		McDonalds	Octagon Computer	Brownies Unlimited	Snowepy		Justin Carrel
Manela		Concordo	Howlett Packard	Cafe Flor	Sondrik		Kiddie Cart
Mendoza		Astroplus	Silicon Valley	Coffee Overdose	Tips 'n Tops		Mrs. Fields Cookies
Mossimo		Odyssey	Mister Donuts	Divas Cafe	Candy Zone		Nimbo
Nafnaf		Elento	Mister Frosty	Ei Kapetan	Waffle Time		Pick & Mix
Onesimus		The Health Shop	Pancake House	Floreslalo Ice Cream	Zen Zest		Praise House of Music
Osh Kosh B'Gosh		Healthy Options	Pizza Hut	Love Vidette	Lola Begong's Halo-halo		Prescripto
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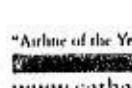
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Airline of the Year 2006

MILF!

From page D1

Haute Mama-Style. prepped with diamonds. You hold the family together. Who's going to keep you together, if you don't pamper yourself?

Looking good means feeling good. Amid fixing diapers and lunch boxes and paying electricity bills, you should not forget that.

Besides, your little ones look up to you for guidance and the next feeding bottle. They see how you deal with juggling both career and family, so you better look absolutely fabulous while you're at it.

In ways both big and small, it's possible to put the drama back in the home,

To borrow the words of mother Whitney (which, by the way, is what she needs right now): "Learning to love yourself, it is the greatest love of all."

E-mail author jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

PHOTOGRAPHY WESLEY VILLARICA
OF PARALLAX STUDIO
STYLING JENNI EPPERSON
OF BIG ON STYLE
MAKEUP XENG ZULUETA
OF SHU UEMURA USING LASHES
FROM TOKYO LASH BAR
HAIR BENJIE ANGELES
USING KIEHL'S STYLISTS SERIES
MODELS GEORGIA SHULZE
AND BABY NADIA
CLOTHES NARLUISKI ASERON
ACCESSORIES MING ONG
OF KATHANG KAHAY
SPECIAL THANKS TO VICKY ANGELES



FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2006

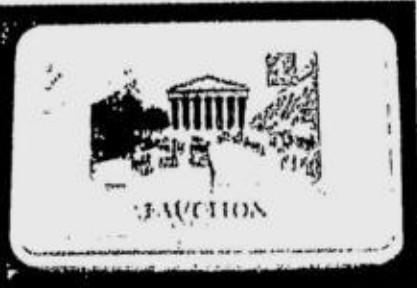
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



LIFE STYLE

MOTHER'S DAY GIFT GUIDE FOR HUSBANDS

Hot momma



SUGAR MOMMY.
It's just food, not
love. But coming
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love, honey, sweet,
luscious love.
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There's a bombshell buried underneath that worn-out,
overworked woman your kids call Mom

MOTHER FAB HER.

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By Cheche V. Moral

NECK-DEEP IN PAPERWORK at her desk, she's distracted with nagging thoughts of the dirty laundry overflowing in the hamper. It's only been a week; the house help won't be back for another two. She takes a deep breath. Ah, more wrinkles!

She calls home to check on the kids. Did they have lunch yet? Have they been playing at the computer all day? Your 14-year-old reminds Mom she needs a new bathing suit—again—so can they please, please go shopping in the weekend? They argue but, as always, your teenage drama queen wins. There goes the weekend; she can survive another week with chipped manicure.

Sighing, she makes a mental note to call the dentist to confirm Junior's appointment on Saturday. Then she plans to surprise you with a nice meal tonight, but the fridge and pantry are

HOT/E2



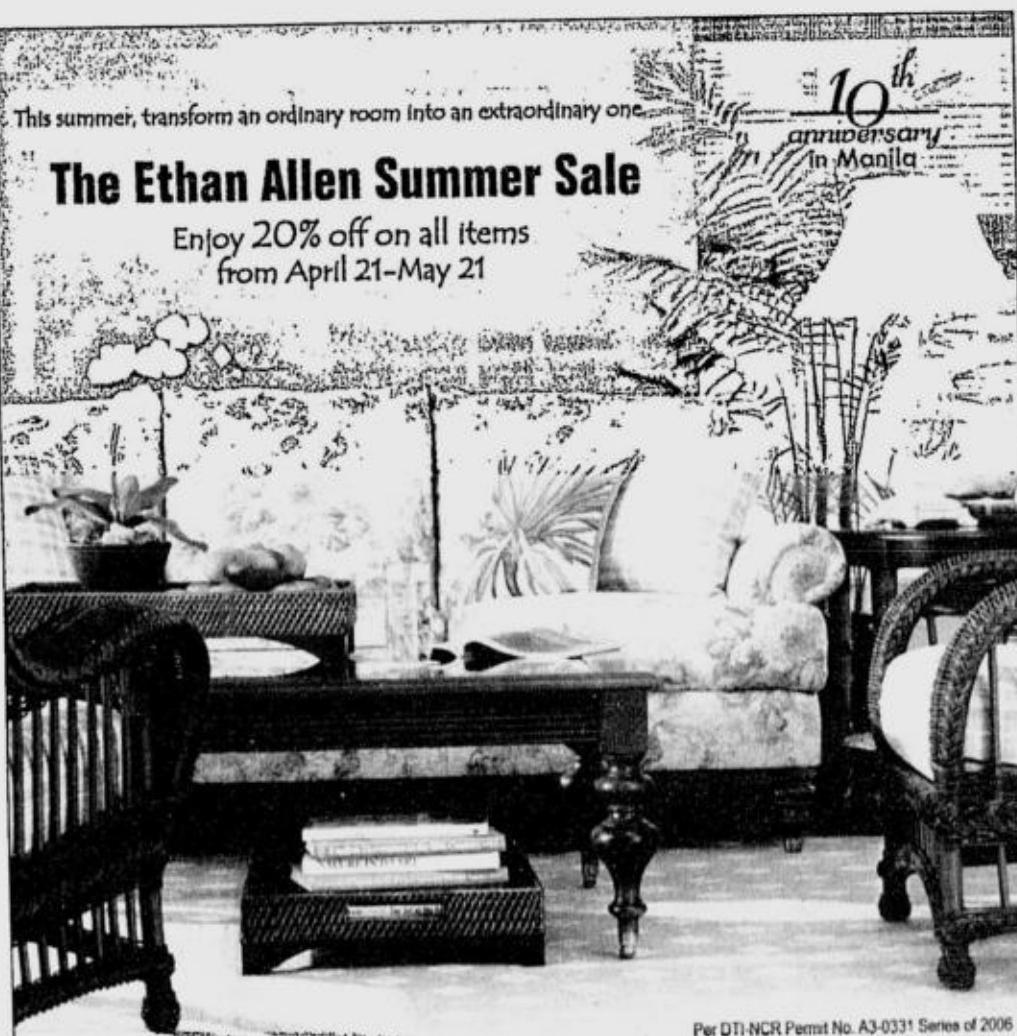
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Pay homage to the feet that bear your kids' weight. Get her foxy heels she won't splurge on herself. Strappy sandals from Louis Vuitton

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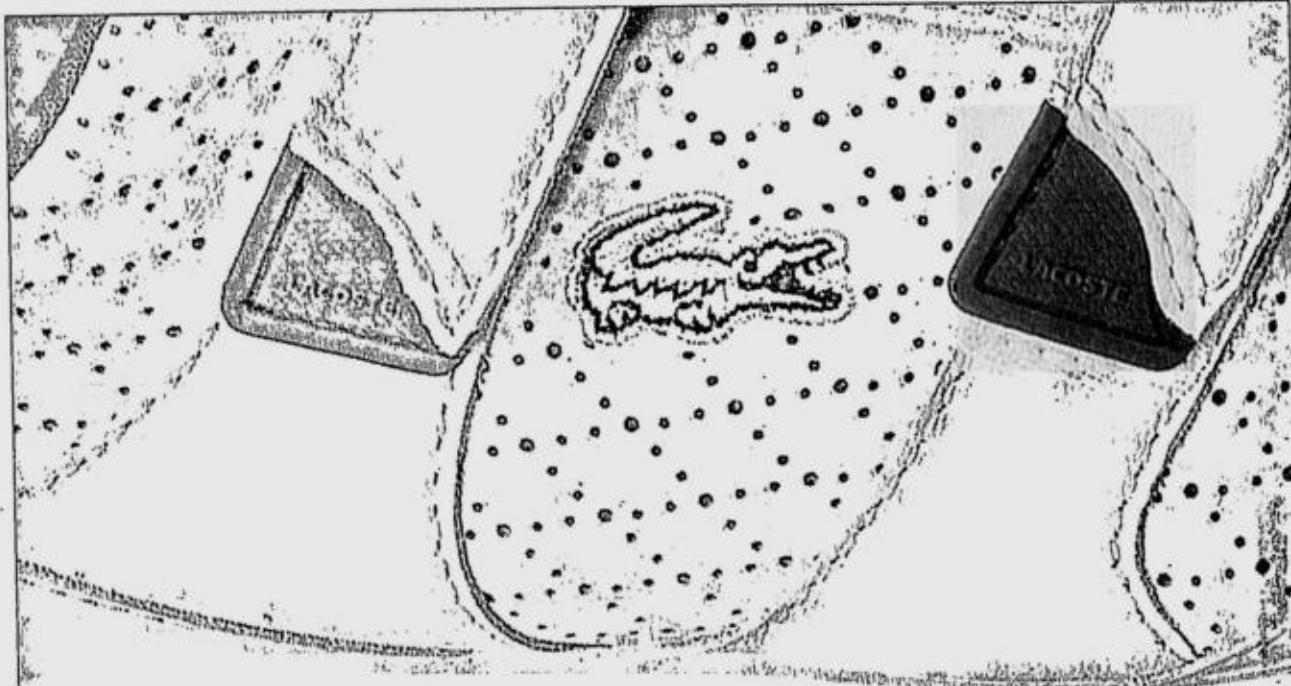
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APPLES' PICKINGS



Apples Aberin Sadhwani

Mommy's girl

AMOTHER-DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIP is probably one of the most significant yet most complex bonds there is. A mother's influence on her daughter is strong and encompassing. A mom is a role model, emotional road map and arbiter of relationships.

I'm a bona fide mother's girl, so all of the above hold true for me. Somehow, I am an ally and extension of my mom. Although there

were times during my teens and early 20s when I ventured away, so to speak, to establish my identity, I've found that I am becoming more and more like her in increasingly profound, and even mundane, ways.

On a lighter note, I'm proud to say that my mom's fashion sense has rubbed off on me as well. I used to borrow her clothes when I was in high school, and I continue to raid her closet for almost anything—be it jewelry or an evening gown. Her penchant for clean, classic lines has inspired me to always try to look neat and effortlessly chic. I'm obviously more

into trends than she is but I'm undeniably cast from the same mold.

To celebrate Mother's Day, we've asked three of Manila's most fashionable women to share their thoughts on how their equally stylish moms have influenced their strong sense of style. Like mother, like daughter, indeed!

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Pauline Suaco-Juan

Editor in chief, Preview Magazine
How would you describe your mother's style? Your style?

When she was younger, she was very *pustura*—but then that was a sign of the times. She was the only girl, my mother, and every week she would get at least one new outfit courtesy of my *lola*, who was also a clotheshorse. She wore her clothes with matching shoes and bag and teased hair. These days, mom's still into matchy-matchy stuff, which is something I always chide her about. She feels strongly that a pair of earrings completes an outfit. I used to feel that way, too, but lately I've been seeing the merits of paring down as far as jewelry is concerned. I wouldn't call my style anti-*pustura*, though. I love getting all dressed up with hair, makeup and the works, but I can't do it

all the time. It's simply too high-maintenance for me. I like looking somewhat undone. I don't really like looking so terribly styled. And I try to avoid that matchy-matchy look at all costs—unless I'm in one of those moods where I try to dress with irony.

Did you or do you raid her closet? What are your most precious finds?

All the time! One of the hardest things about marrying and living on our own was to have limited access to my mother's things. I'm there every Sunday rifling through her baubles to wear to work during the week. My mom and *lola* were pack rats so there's always a lot of undiscovered and rediscovered booty stored somewhere in the house. Some of the most precious to me are the vintage lace, locked away in a cedar Chinese chest. Some of them have their original price tags still attached to them. Imagine Chantilly lace for \$30!

What are your mother's fashion staples? What are yours?

My mom loves her earrings—especially her South Sea and South Sea-esque pearls. I'm always at a loss when I'm asked this question. It used to be earrings, too, now I guess it's a perfect pedicure.



Liza Ilarde-Cuenea

Fashion journalist

How would you describe your mother's style? Your style?

My mother is into separates, which she can mix and match with other items in her closet, rather than complete head-to-toe ensembles. I also prefer separates, but my style is more about mixing and not matching—expensive with cheap, vintage with new, ladylike with something grungy.

Did your mother's fashion preferences in any way influence yours?

My mom is the complete opposite of a fashion victim. She's not interested in designer labels or acquiring the latest "it" bag. I, on the other hand, love designer wear (doesn't mean I can afford them, though!), but she has influenced me to look beyond the label, and to choose things I can wear beyond a season.

What are the similarities or differences between your style and hers?

I have claimed her sweaters and knit tops from the '60s, which are still in pretty good condition! These days I raid her closet when I need to borrow jewelry, which I end up not returning (laughs).



MOM Sylvia Arrastia Ilarde

but the difference is, while she wears her prints with solids, I kick it up a notch by wearing different prints together.

Did you or do you raid her closet? What are your most precious finds?

I have claimed her sweaters and knit tops from the '60s, which are still in pretty good condition!

These days I raid her closet when I need to borrow jewelry, which I end up not returning (laughs).



Astrud Crisologo

Owner, Casa Amarilla

How would you describe your mother's style? Your style?

My mom's style was pretty eclectic! She had different looks. I guess I'm the same. My current look is Gidget meets Tiki na glam rock, kinda like Elvis' Blue Hawaii on steroids!

What do you admire most about your mother's style?

She was very brave and unwavering! She did it her own way despite my insistence of a makeover!

Did your mother's fashion preferences in any way influence yours?

Yes, most especially her earlier style during the '70s. I remembered being really proud of her when she'd visit me in grade school. She was a working mom so she looked very glamorous. She loved bright colors and prints—she hoarded

a lot of tela for our custom-made matching outfits and I still have most of them today!

What are the similarities or differences between your style and hers?

We love color, prints, embroidery and crochet. We've kept certain pieces that we knew would come back some day! We're pack rats! The difference was she was more into corporate dressing. When she had a favorite piece of clothing she would wear it again and again. I would, but years apart.

What are your mother's fashion staples? What are yours?

My mom always wore big pearl earrings and big glasses. Mine are big sunglasses, bangles made out of endangered species (just kidding!), vintage bags and bakelite evening bags.



"I love you. I know I don't say it too often. Even when I'm busy, running around, seemingly scattered, you are always with me, also laughing with me during my triumphs and holding me up when things go dark. Thank you, thank you, thank you."

—Angelique Villaraza



Mother board

We pay tribute to the mothers of Manila's style luminaries. As the saying goes, 'The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.' In this case, style truly is in the genes.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEGA MAGAZINE

MOM Becky

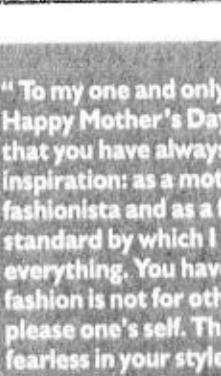


PHOTO COURTESY OF MEGA MAGAZINE

MOM Becky

"To my one and only Ate: A very Happy Mother's Day to you! Know that you have always been my inspiration: as a mother, as a fashionista and as a friend. You are the standard by which I have measured everything. You have shown me that fashion is not for other people, but to please one's self. Thank you for being fearless in your style and never caring about what others think. You have shown me that fashion is meant to be enjoyed (as is life) and whether others approve or not, as long as it makes me feel good, then that's all that matters. Thank you for teaching me to love myself, flaws and all!"

—Tina Tinio

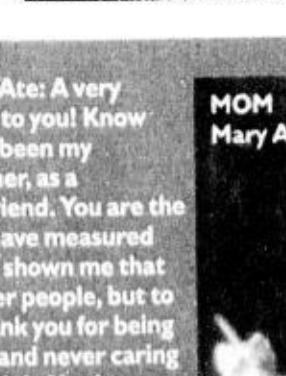
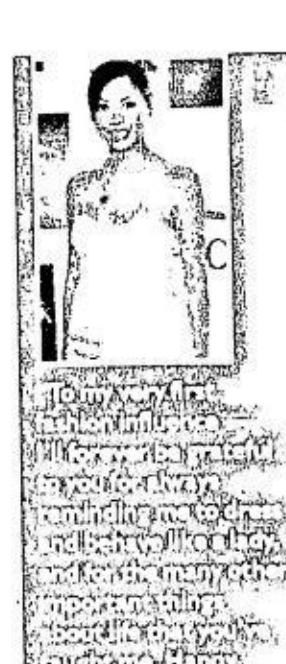


PHOTO COURTESY OF MEGA MAGAZINE

MOM Amilia 'Mely' Abaya



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEGA MAGAZINE

MOM Aida



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEGA MAGAZINE

MOM Mary Anne



From page F1.

nearly empty. A trip to the supermarket after work...

If, dear husband, you've ever wondered where that vivacious, perpetually perfumed woman you married has gone, that's her at the sink, wrangling with dirty dishes as you kick back, sated, with a sweating amber bottle in one hand, the TV clicker on the other.

How do you show your appreciation? Not by counting the wrinkles on her face, no, no, or by poking at her flabs. And certainly not, we hope, by comparing her to the twinks half her age in your office.

Maybe you can start by putting away that beer bottle and taking over at the sink (or nag the kids to). Tell her to get a long, relaxing shower, maybe massage her feet afterward, ask about her day, complement her... She'll know you're lying, but that little effort on your part will go a long way.

Didn't you think she'd probably want to spend her days in the spa, getting primped at the salon or burning calories at the gym to regain her 24-inch waistline if she didn't put all your family's needs first? She'd probably be living in skin-tight minis and three-inch stilettos if they were practical enough to run after a toddler with. And she certainly can't spend hours preening in...



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Hot momma

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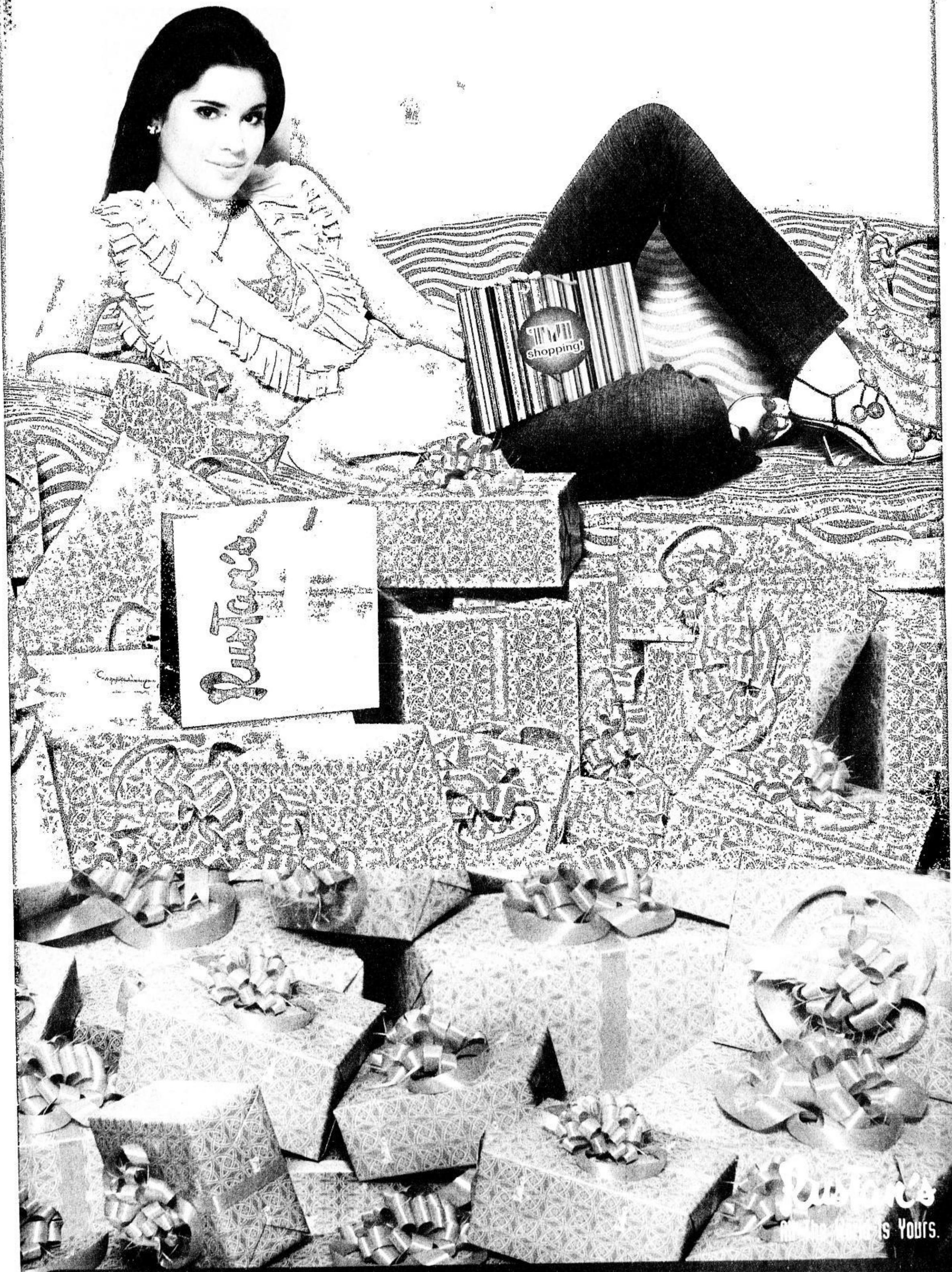
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THE MICHAEL
Lin corridor, with
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THE LIMITED-EDITION Speedy Twilight
Taipei, with a diamond-encrusted likeness
of Taipei 101 on the dial. At right, the gold-
and-diamonds Pineapple Charm, available
worldwide next month

By Cheche V. Moral

EVEN AS THE INCESSANT downpour threatened to literally rain on its parade, not even the 5.6-magnitude earthquake that jolted the city could've stopped the opening of Louis Vuitton Maison in Taipei on April 28.

Taipei is only the fifth city—and the third in Asia—to host a Maison, the premier level of concept stores by the French luxury malletier, following Paris, New York, Tokyo and Hong Kong. It's a testament to the significance of the Taiwan market to the brand. The company opened its first store in Taiwan 23 years ago and, with the Maison's opening, now has nine stores across the island.

Cultural imprint

An LV Maison is home not just to the entire LV collection, but also bears the cultural imprint of the city through collaborations with a local artist for the store's look and design.

Located on Chung Shan North Road in the Taiwan capital, the LV Maison Taipei was designed by the Japanese architect Kumiko Inui, who is also responsible for the company's store in Kochi, Japan. Before she set up her own firm, the diminutive woman had previously worked for Jun Aoki, the prominent architect who had designed the exteriors of many an LV store—in New York, Hong Kong Landmark, and Ginza, Omotesando, Osaka, Nagoya and Roppongi Hills in Japan.

The entire facade of the four-story Taipei Maison features LV's signature Damier checkerboard pattern. The opaque stones glow at



MINI LV purses, er, bag charms

night owing to LED backlighting. The Damier theme is carried throughout the interiors, with a skylight atop the staircase connecting the four levels.

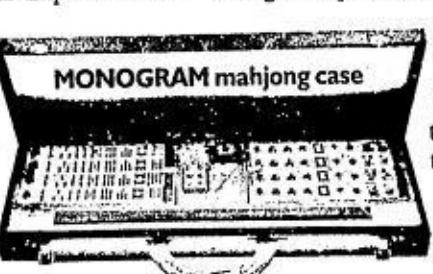
The ground floor houses LV's most popular items, such as women's handbags, eyewear, small leathergoods and select jewelry, including the limited-edition Speedy Twilight Taipei watch that bears a diamond-encrusted likeness of

Taipei 101, the world's tallest building. Taiwan's iconic fruit, the pineapple, is also immortalized for the occasion with the Pineapple Charm, which comes in yellow gold with 28 diamonds or yellow sapphires.

Men's ready-to-wear, luggage, footwear (including shoes for little boys!) and accessories are on the second level. Right above it is devoted to women's RTW, eyewear, accessories, and handbags, naturally.

The Taipei Maison houses a bookstore with a collection of tomes on art, design, fashion, lifestyle and travel, all subjects that are congruent to the heritage of

FRENCH/F2



MONOGRAM mahjong case



THE TAIPEI Maison is the first to carry an LV bookstore outside of Paris, this one adjoining the men's leathergoods section.

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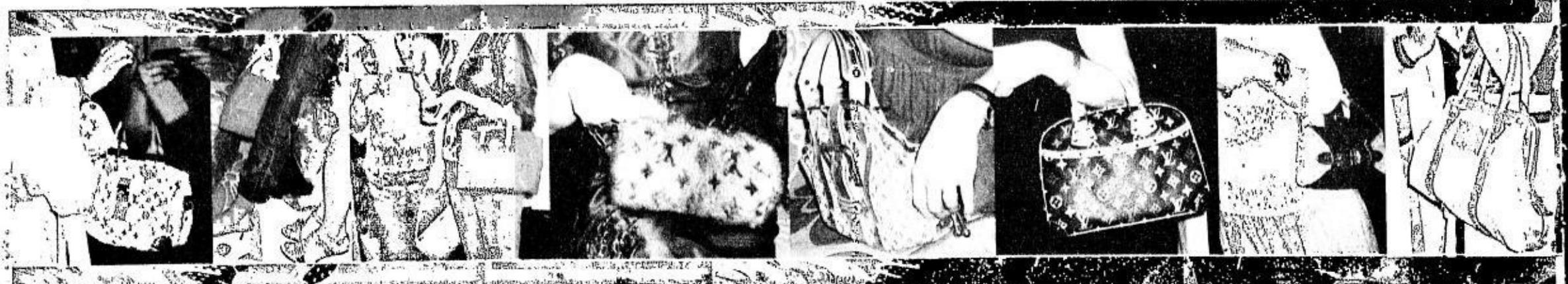
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LV CHAIR and CEO Yves Carcelle (third from left) is flanked by Guillaume Thierry, LV Taiwan CEO; Korean pop star Rain; Francois Delage, LV Asia-Pacific president; and female models



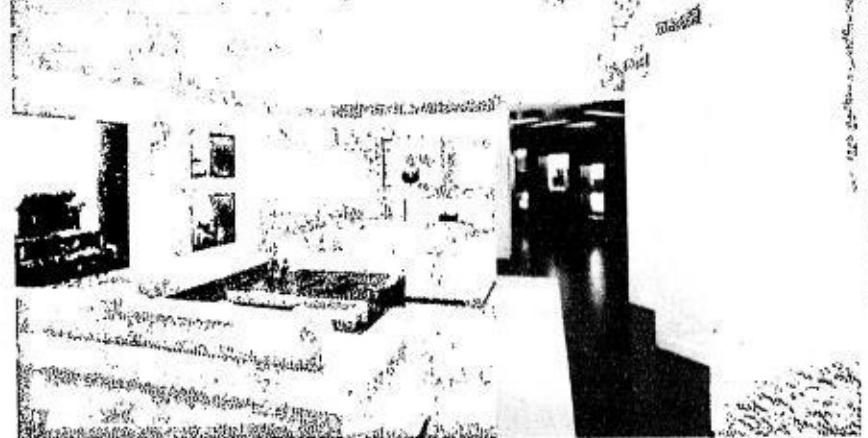
THE FAÇADE of Taipei's Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, venue of the LV party, is projected with Lin's floral motif.

French chic, Taiwanese flavor



THE ARCHITECT AND THE ARTIST. Kumiko Inui (left) and Michael Lin

THE VIP lounge, with a Corian paravent screen at far right by Taiwanese artist Michael Lin



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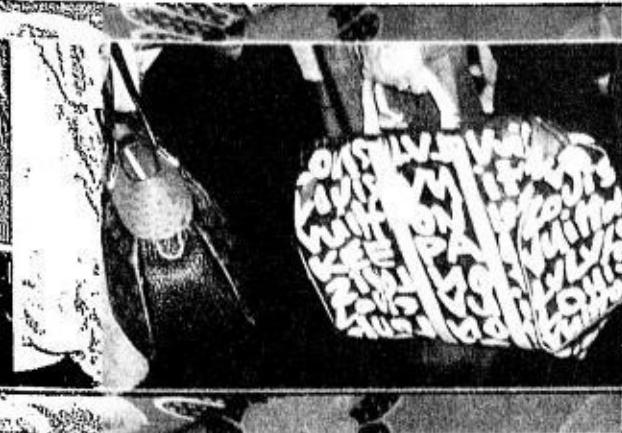
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air

From page F1

Louis Vuitton and which, according to CEO and chair Yves Carcelle, "complement the luxury products and atmosphere." Taipei is the first LV store to carry this concept outside of Paris.

Part of the 600-title collection is on the men's level. Here, clients can browse through the Magic Book, an implement that flips its pages with an electronic sensor. No danger of dog-earing precious pages, thank you very much.

The fourth level takes the greater part of the book collection. Adjacent to it is the stark-red Michael Lin corridor, a striking contrast to the elegantly muted look of the entire store.

Local flair

Lin is a Taiwanese artist based in Paris and Taipei who was commissioned to provide the local flair to the Maison. Known for his immense floral patterns affixed on vast spaces, the 42-year-old artist reproduced a bright red floral pattern culled from a tattered Taiwanese rug on an L-shaped section of the Maison's VIP section. The pattern is painted floor-to-ceiling, seamlessly blending into the crimson interiors of the elevator. The elevator's leather interiors are embossed and embroidered with the same floral pattern, and is said to mimic the inner lining of a trunk.

Lin's patterns are, in fact, large-scale reproductions of textile patterns found in Taiwanese homes, designs of which are already fast vanishing.

"You will probably be disappointed in this," Lin said. "I don't design the patterns. I copy them from the original and manipulate them. In

that way I'm placing tradition into a new context, and renew it in that way."

For the first time, Lin also worked with the material Corian, which is part plastic and part stone, carving the same floral patterns in a white paravent screen located at the VIP lounge area.

The artist's works would be the enduring theme of the LV affair, with the patterns adorning the indoor gazebos and upholstered seats at the majestic Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, the venue of the Maison's opening party.

The flower prints were also projected on the exterior walls of the hall. The metal plates of the dance floor were similarly stenciled with floral patterns.

And no, he didn't mind that people literally walked all over his work, Lin said.

"You are enveloped by the work. You use it. You make it a part of you. I guess that's the most important thing with ornaments; it should be pleasurable."

Carcelle said he was quite pleased with Lin's work that he's not writing off the idea of signing him up for another project.

"We like to work with people we've worked before," he said. "Yes, Michael was chosen because he's Taiwanese. But when we like your work, just as we like Kumiko's, nationality later becomes immaterial... And we like to work with artists."

A Michael Lin handbag, possibly? Hmmm, not too shabby next to a Murakami.



FROM THE INDOOR gazebos to the dance floor, the LV party is awash in Michael Lin prints.

THE TAIWANESE sooo love their LV purses, and proof are these sightings at the Taipei Maison party. But the Muscovites love their Marc Jacobs-designed ready-to-wear even more, LV chief Yves Carcelle told the INQUIRER. With only two stores in Moscow, new-rich Russians top the French fashion house's pret-a-porter sales, beating even the Japanese. LV has over 40 stores in Japan.

CHECHEV. MORAL



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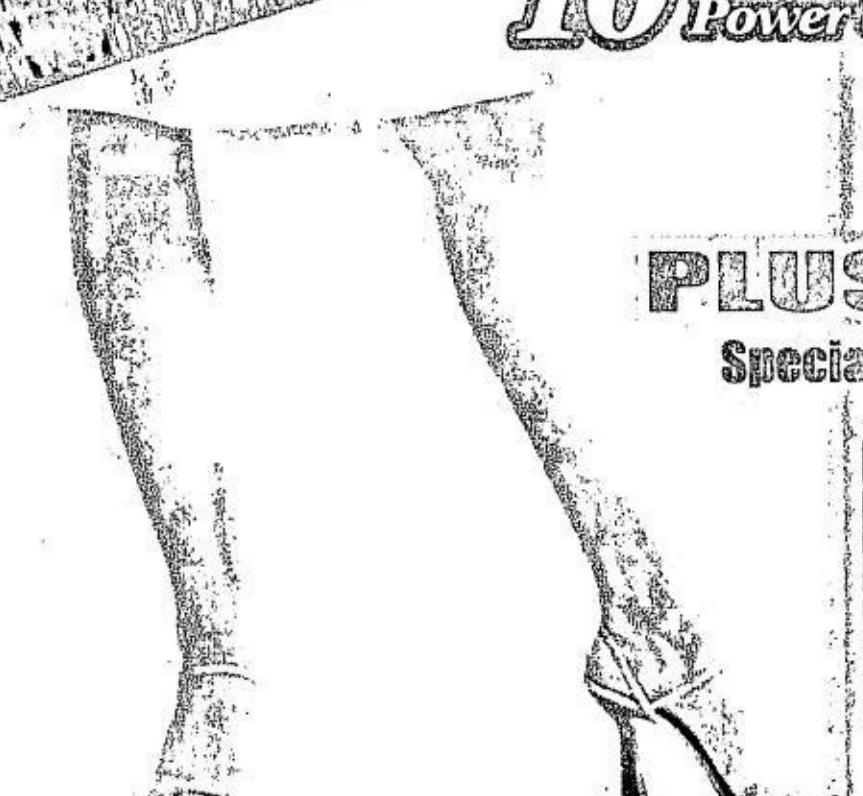
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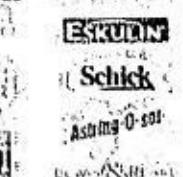
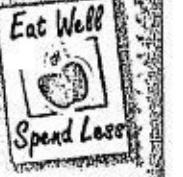


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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1146 Series of 2006

There's a new attraction at Enchanted Kingdom.

This summer, don't miss Festivale Danzel. A stunning parade loaded with dance moves, musical grooves and breathtaking fireworks that will surely make your summer days sizzle! Every weekend at 5pm until May 14, 2006.



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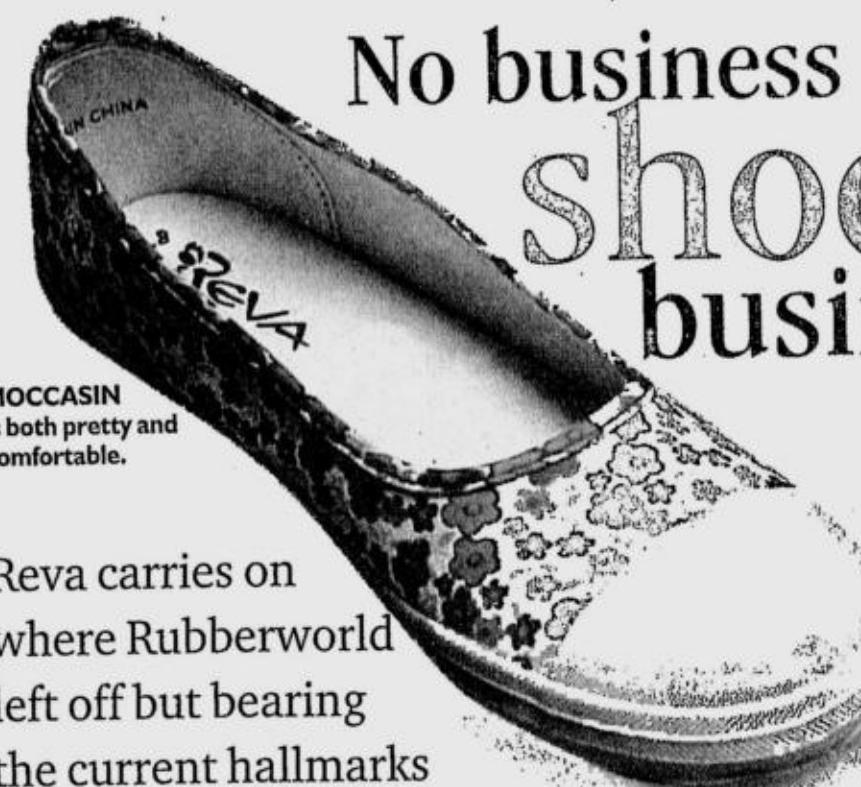


The magic stays with you.

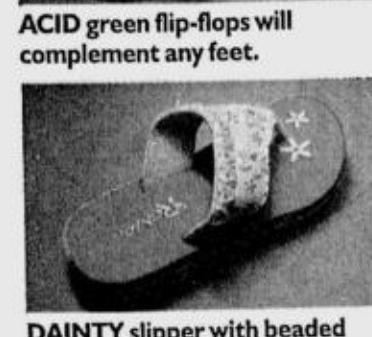
LIFESTYLE

No business like
shoe
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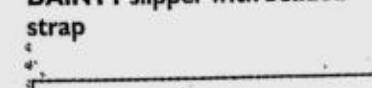
ORANGE flip-flops will take you anywhere.



MOCCASIN is both pretty and comfortable.



ACID green flip-flops will complement any feet.



DAINTY slipper with beaded strap.

Reva carries on where Rubberworld left off but bearing the current hallmarks of the Filipino shoe industry



ALMOST good enough to eat are the "berries" on this jelly slipper.

By Linda B. Bolido

PEOPLE WHO GREW UP WITH Rubberworld may now be raising a generation in Reva world.

Set up by José Yu, probably the first Filipino to train in shoemaking in Germany, home base of some prestigious sports brands, Rubberworld was among the top labels in the country for decades, manufacturing footwear, particularly local athletic shoes and the then popular Spartan rubber slippers, for Filipinos of all ages.

But as the local shoe industry increasingly became untenable, what with the entry of cheap imports, restive workers, rising costs of raw ma-



CHILDREN'S shoes come in rainbow hues and modern designs.

terials, Rubberworld found distribution more practical than manufacturing.

And so, for years, the company, renamed Unisport Italia Mfg. Corp., became a distributor of some foreign labels, with the primary responsibility of bringing them to provincial retailers.

The "shoe" of a distributor might have been comfortable enough for a while but the call of leather (and all the other materials they now turn into footware) proved too irresistible for Yu. The Filipino shoemaker never really lost his feel for the product. Those who know him marvel at his mastery of the craft which enables him to tell if a shoe is unevenly made by just looking at it and turning it this way and that a few times.

The Reva brand was born in 1997, bearing the hallmarks of the evolution of the Philippine shoe industry. Reva is a production that gets its direction and ideas from the Philippines. Yu's daughter, Eleanor Ocampo, has eagerly jumped into the old family business assuming the position of vice president and providing most of the design ideas. She basically runs the company here while her father oversees work by production units in China.

Design 'improv'

Ocampo says she does not do any actual illustrations. What she does is draw inspirations and generate design ideas from her travels and from various publications.

Tweaking the designs here and there so they will be different from the original and will be more suitable to the actual needs of the Filipino foot, the ideas are sent to production units in China for manufacture.

The Chinese end also suggests designs occasionally, drawing from trends gleaned from what importers buy. China, of course, has become a major shoe exporter. Just look at what most local retailers are selling these days.

Ocampo says Reva products are now geared primarily towards the "after-sport" lifestyle—what people wear to go malling, on a leisurely stroll, casual gettogethers or just about any occasion that does not call for formal leather or tough sports shoes.

Pretty slip-ons dominate the Reva line for women and sturdy open-toed sandals for men (what are occasionally referred to locally as "sandalyas ni Hudas"). Ocampo says espadrilles may be expected during the hot, dry season.

A few athletic shoes are thrown in occasionally and an apparel line is being considered in the future.

Children get rubber shoes in candy colors and smaller versions of the sandals and slippers.

Prices range from a low of P59 to no more than P1,200.

The label is available in major shopping malls or the company showroom at 497 President Quirino Ave. cor. Zulueta St., Paco, Manila (tel. 5617137).



FLORAL bubble skirts for young girls are fashion staples at Space Boutique.

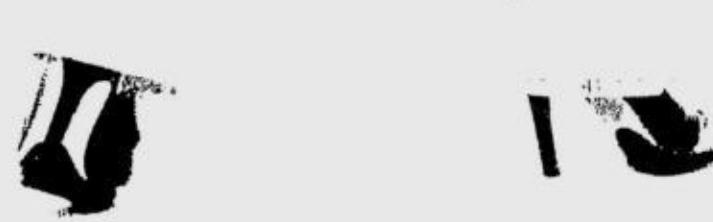
Stylish
space

SPACE BOUTIQUE IS A HAVEN for ladies' apparel that is sure to make every fashion-loving gal's heart beat faster.

Space flaunts an array of ultra-stylish wearables for young, hip women. Take a pick from billowy cotton tops, puff-sleeved belted jackets, sheer sabrina blouses, floral bubble skirts, classic pique polo shirts, printed blouses, cargo-inspired skirts and pants.

Fresh, young, hip and chic, this clothing brand sets the trend and continues to whip up fresh, new clothing ideas.

Space Boutique is located at Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, SM City San Lazaro, SM Valenzuela, Rustan's Alabang Town Center, Rustan's Tower, and Rustan's Manila.



Pamper yourself with the best that world-class designer brands have to offer. Give yourself the "gifts of indulgences" and avail of top-of-the-line collections that match your impeccable taste and lifestyle.

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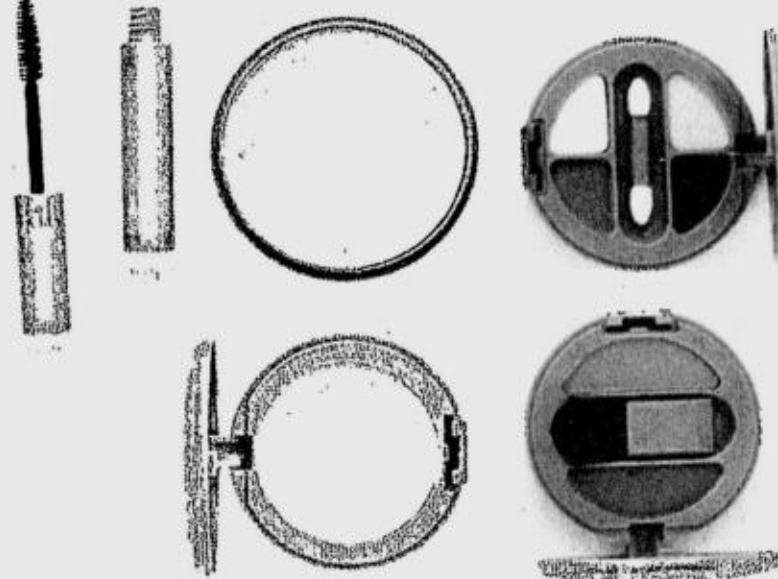
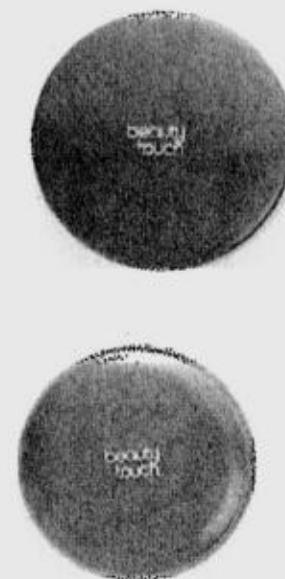
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0385, Series of 2006

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Contributing Editor Ria Francisco-Prieto

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

L
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Pure love



What can we give someone who has given us everything and really don't want anything material?

E-mail me at rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to all moms and soon-to-be-moms!

I love kids. In fact I think I get along with them more than with adults. They have no pretensions, are easy to entertain and love cartoons as much as I do. I guess this carefree attitude slowly seeps away when you have to take care of the bills and think of the future. That is why I still want to be a playmate, not a parent. As of the moment, I don't have to make the kids sleep and take care of them when they get sick.

A friend of mine has just recently found out that she is expecting. Everyone is so happy and excited for her, but certain things entered my head that I feel guilty about. It's actually three things—excessive weight gain, stretch marks and sagging. Not to mention the most important part, which is having to nurture a child who will be doing battle with you when they hit their teens.

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

I know it sounds a little selfish and narrow-minded but these are things our mothers have to contend with. I wish I could honestly say I embrace all these things because I am a Christian and a baby is always a blessing. But should I be happy about what happens after the "little person" is delivered?

So when my husband tells me how excited he is to have a baby, I remind him that I am the one who will get pregnant and a lot of changes will happen to me.

Psychologically and emotionally, I think I can handle the changes, but the physical ones I'm still trying to feel comfortable about. So what I do to prepare myself is to try to accept that these things would happen (excessive weight gain, stretch marks and sagging) so that when I do get pregnant, all I would have is happiness toward my situation and excitement for the baby.

Practical gift

It's Mother's Day next Sunday. What can we give someone who has given us everything and really don't want anything material? A card is what moms love, of course, but makeup would be a great addition, too. It's a practical gift since they all use some.

Sara Lee has a new collection called Beauty Touch. The colors are nothing outrageous, but they are really pretty and versatile and can be used by anyone easily. All the eyeshadows come in four palettes and you have seven variations to choose from, while blushers have two palettes each.

Sara Lee also has a wide selection of powders, lipstick and lip glaze (this is actually my personal fave).

My mom is one of the most influential people in my life, because I love her and mostly because I know that whatever she says, even if it's something I don't want to hear, is actually for my best interest. I believe motherhood is the most difficult and least rewarding job on earth. Still, I know someday I would want to have my own mini-me and mini-Paolo.

My friends who have kids say that a parent's love for a child is the purest love there is. When I become one, I hope to be as nurturing and as cool as my mom, and I wish my child will talk about me like how my husband talks about his mom. Then I would know I did a great job.



philosophy: the gift of grace

*a mom's love, like nature,
is forever loving,
asking for nothing in return*



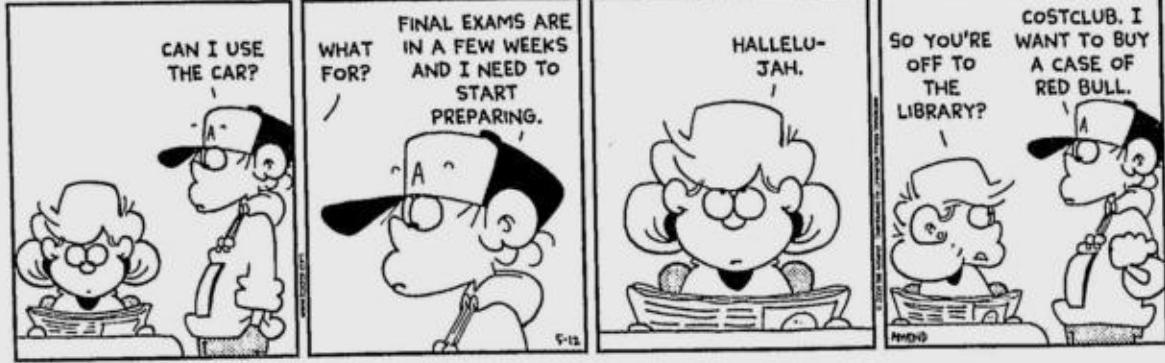
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FOXTROT



BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA



MARVIN



AND I SUPPOSE DOGS HAVE A SUPERIOR WAY TO MAINTAIN PROPER HYGIENE?

DARN RIGHT! WE RUN BACK AND FORTH THROUGH THE SPRINKLERS AND DRY OFF BY ROLLING IN THE GRASS.

BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR



BABY BLUES



BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY



BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a fine mind. You're an independent thinker, and you do your homework before you act. You love to expose other people's sacred cows. You're playful, lighthearted and teasing, yet you're very serious about practically everything in life. You express yourself well and are often in a position of leadership. Increased solitude this year will help you learn something important.

Birthdate of: Katharine Hepburn, actress; George Carlin, comedian; Tony Hawk, skateboard superstar.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Financial matters or shared property might be a concern for you now. You're not sure whose interests to put first—your own or those of somebody else. (You cannot ignore your own.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Be tolerant and understanding of co-workers. People might be pushy and nervous today. (It's just a Full Moon thing.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Things might be dicey when dealing with authority figures at home today. Today's Full Moon puts stress on your domestic world. (This tension is gone in 48 hours.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Today's Full Moon is opposite your sign. (Every Full Moon is an opposition of the Sun and the Moon.) This means you have to be more patient with others right now. (No big deal.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The demands of friends and the demands of your personal life might be in conflict today. You can't please everybody. Don't worry about this.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a mildly accident-prone day. The Full Moon will excite some people and distract them when driving, walking, whatever. Therefore, take precautions and slow down.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): In one way, this is a good day for business. Just make sure you see both sides of the situation. You could boost your earnings, but don't be pushy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Today's Full Moon is the only Full Moon in your sign all year. That's why you feel more intense and emotional about everything! Relax—it's gone in a day or two.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Maya Angelou said, "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." Keep this in mind today. Dispel any feelings of self-doubt. They will disappear quickly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Friends and groups might demand more of you than you can give. Don't worry about this. You don't have to please everyone. If you please yourself, you'll cover 75 percent of everybody else.

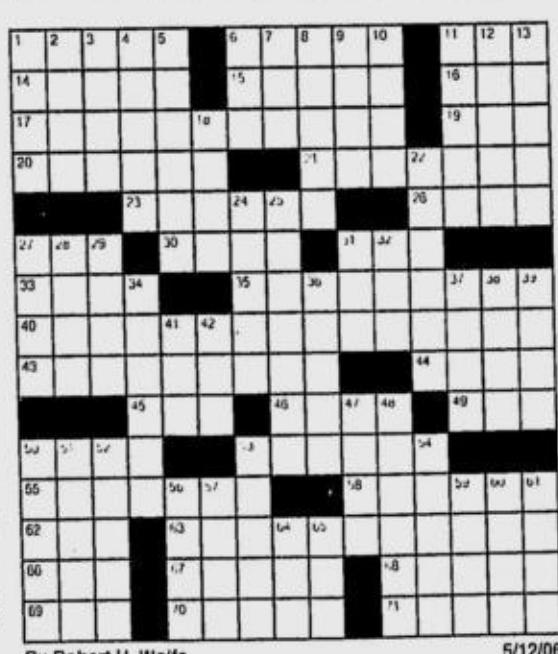
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Authority figures are demanding today. You're not sure what to make of it. If possible, do nothing. Just smile. In a few days, your course of action will be clear.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Avoid religious and political arguments with others today. They will just go in circles. You'll be preaching to deaf ears or to the choir.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Map collection
- 6 Clinton and Karrie
- 11 Gotchal
- 14 Oxeye —
- 15 "The Jetsons" boy
- 16 Research rm.
- 17 Garments adorning duck feathers?
- 19 Fridays' lead-in?
- 20 Tranquilize
- 21 Cur canines
- 23 Yiddish man with fortitude
- 26 Sharpen
- 27 D-Day craft
- 30 Legendary tale
- 31 Mine extraction
- 33 Cornelia — Skinner
- 35 Vegetarian rule
- 40 Footwear taken orally?
- 43 Say, "All in favor..."
- 44 Scottish hillside
- 45 Play poodle?
- 46 Dutch cheese
- 49 Lyric poem
- 50 Sprinkle after a shower
- 53 Oil-rich area
- 55 Piled up haphazardly
- 58 Ill
- 62 Also
- 63 Men's garments, made perfectly?
- 66 Theol. belief
- 67 Shenanigan
- 68 Harry Hamlin's Lisa
- 69 Tin Man's tool
- 70 New Age pianist
- 71 RBI and ERA



By Robert H. Wolfe

North Woodmere, NY

5/12/06

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



- MAE E PACK ROLAND
EBB UPON ONAGER
ABOUT THE BEWARE
TANGO EWER CROW
ONLY THING YOU CAN
RAF SAVE PROMO
ERNS TEASLE TRAM
ACTED TWAS GIS
DOONASHOESTRING
OIFO FEEFEE
- PAHR TFS TRIATIA
ANOINT ISTOTRIP
STATUE POOLUTE
SEDATE SPYS MIX
- 42 Leafy climber
47 Lie next to
48 Secondary areas of study
50 Crownlet
51 Tack on
52 Soup spoon
53 Of bees
54 Anticipate
- 56 Spol
57 Mystique
59 Sicilian volcano
60 Fasting period
61 Where kine dine
64 Station from Tenn.
65 Travel on snow

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*Koko Machine*

SUNDAY

KIKO MACHINE



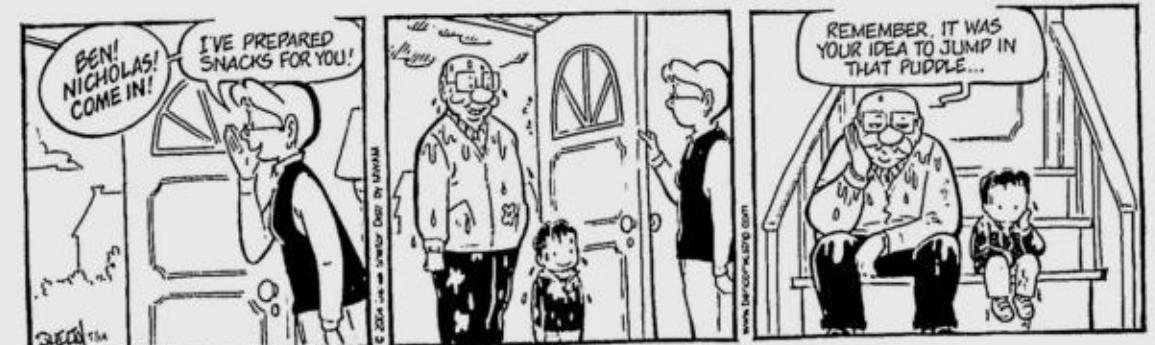
BY MANIX ABRERA

*Ben*

SUNDAY

BY DANIEL SHELTON

BEN



LOVEKNOTS



BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

*Job Fair*

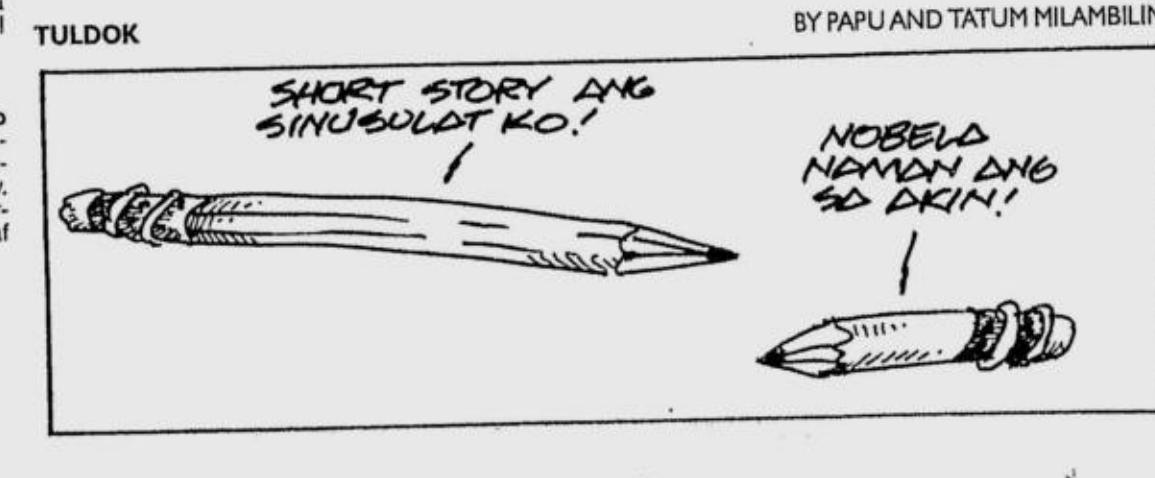
SUNDAY



BY PAPU AND TUM MILAMBILING

*Tuldog*

SUNDAY



BY NOBENO

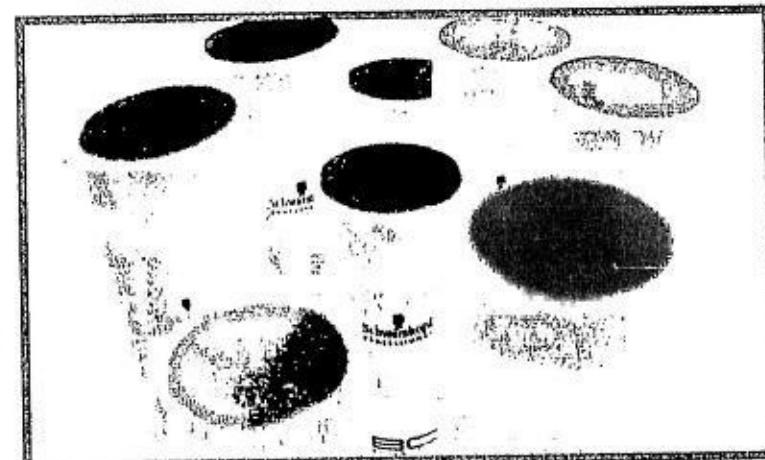
Rx for healthy hair

SCHWARZKOPF PROFESSIONAL introduces the all-new Bonacure range of hair care, a sophisticated line of customized treatments that delivers outstanding and enduring hair beauty.

Recent research shows that skin and hair have astoundingly similar properties. Just like skin, everybody's hair is different. Bonacure offers a complete and new range of therapies tailor-made to treat individual hair care problems in exactly the same way we look after our skin.

Bonacure's new range of hair care products provides in-depth and long-term and effective therapies that treat the root of the problem rather than mask them with quick-fix solutions.

Besides the innovative Amino Acid Technology which works from the inside, the ApHinity Technology focuses on the hair surface. Together, the revolutionary and sophisticated Glycine Amino Acid formula and ApHinity cleanse, care and treat the hair. Bonacure's sleekly packaged



BONACURE Hairtherapy by Schwarzkopf bottles are color-coordinated to easily recognize the specific product for your hair type.

products are delicately fragranced with subtle citrus and light floral notes to leave the hair feeling clean, fresh and cared for.

The hair therapy range consists of the following products:

Repair Rescue. The active Cu-TeC proteins deliver outstanding results, reinforcing and restructuring hair from within.

Color Save. This rich, luxurious range for colored hair serves a dual purpose: to undo damage caused by harsh chemicals and protect color from fading, keep-

ing hair healthy, alive and vibrant.

Moisture Kick. A rich and intensive care system for dry, naturally coarse hair. The Milk-Protein-Complex and Amino Acid Therapy rehydrate even the driest

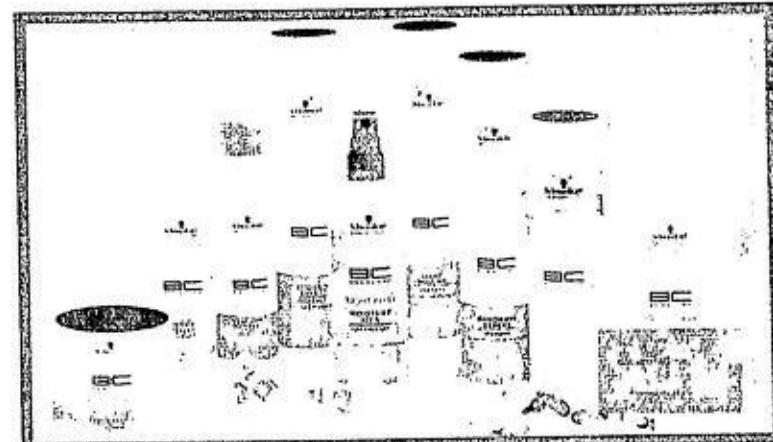
Light Volume. An ultra-light range of therapies for normal to fine hair that nourishes and protects without weighing the hair down. The care treatments contain Light-Body-Complex to gently condition the hair without overburdening it.

Hair and Scalp Expert. This range of delicate hair therapies treat all hair and scalp problems, from dandruff and sensitive scalps to hair loss, with their gentle formulations. For the first time, Bonacure offers an ultra-effective and safe hair growth serum that deliver superior, long-term results.

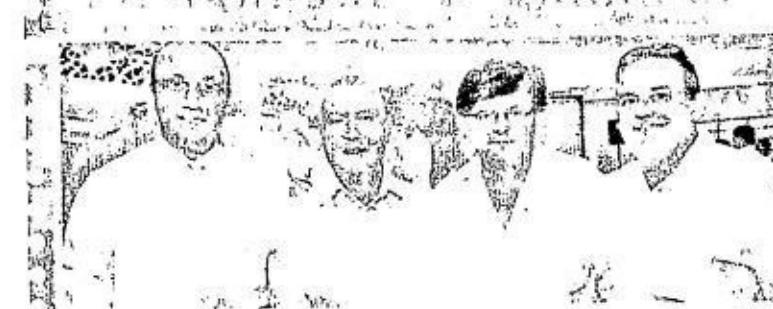
Bonacure by Schwarzkopf Professionals is exclusively distributed by Top Style Marketing, Inc., with office at Unit 25PA Eisenhower Tower, Greenhills, San Juan (tel. 7231763/7268507 to 08). It is available only in salons.



SMOOTH control, light volume and great colors



BONACURE, a sophisticated new line of customized hair treatments from Schwarzkopf Professional



BRAD Bergman, director of Exotic Beauty Cosmetics, with Australian friends Kevin Lewis, Farren Hoffman and Laurie Martin

Instant eyeshadow now in Manila

IF THEY MUST WEAR MAKEUP, MOST women will automatically reach for their blush, powder or lipstick. Eyeshadow often comes last, because not only is it difficult to put on, especially in a moving vehicle, it also takes a lot more time and effort, because women have to blend the colors properly so as not to end up looking like something the cat dragged through a cosmetic counter.

A new product tries to eliminate the hassles associated with putting on eyeshadow.

Launched recently at the Kalayaan Hall of Club Filipino in Greenhills, Eye Majic Instant Eye Shadow has been brought into the country from Australia by Eye Majic Philippines director Gina Ledesma and distributor Jerianne Ejercito.

The trade and press launch was hosted by Chesca Litton and Rikki Kwek. A fashion show featured the creations of designer Frederick Peralta.

Eye Majic comes in seven different, pre-selected shades that take the hassle out of blending.

With Eye Majic, one does



not have to worry about using brushes or applicators that may be dirty or infected. Eye Majic has a "zero contamination" factor, since the strips are manufactured, packaged and sealed by state-of-the-art machinery.

The product remains un-

touched by human hands

until it is used by the person

who buys it.

It is easy to use. The colors come on a strip that one applies to the eyelid. One should simply close the eyelid and apply the Eye Majic strip as close to the base of the eyelid as possible. Then using comfortable pressure, one holds the strip firmly for about four seconds, then slide it across the eyelid. One can then use the reverse side of the Eye Majic strip to blend and tone the outer areas of the applied eye shadow for a softer look.

The Philippines is the first country in Asia to try the new beauty product.

"The Philippines has been chosen as our gateway to the rest of Asia. It was our country of choice due to our long association and close relationship with our Philippine business partner as well as our own personal affection for the country itself where the English language is so widely used and understood," said Brad Bergman, director of Exotic Beauty Cosmetics and manufacturer of Eye Majic.

For dealership inquiries, call 8680525 and 5296469. E-mail: gtrading@yahoo.com, eye_majic@yahoo.com or visit website www.exoticbeauty.com.au.



ROCK Mamone, Italian inventor of Eye Majic, demonstrates how the product instantly enhances the eyes.



HEALTHY, beautiful hair courtesy of Bonacure Hairtherapy

Take Good Care of your Heart with **Kolestrim®** Coconut Fiber Capsule.

Kolestrim® contains a unique combination of natural coconut fiber and garlic which helps reduce the risk of heart diseases. Don't take your Heart for granted, take 2-3 capsules of **Kolestrim®** daily and make your heart healthier and stronger.

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Sanctuary in the city

HAVE YOU HAD the urge to get away from it all? Just get up in the middle of a work week and escape the city?

I had tried it several times but had always chickened out because I was scared to leave behind my responsibilities. Don't emergencies usually pop up when you're far away?

Besides, I am a city girl at heart and the fresh air plus the peace and quiet of the country might drive me nuts after just a few hours. If it doesn't, the long commute home surely will.

There is a new salon called Philosophy by Mikaela that allows me to have my cake and eat it, too. It is located on A. Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road).

From the elevator you go all the way up to the penthouse (5/F) and as the lift door opens, you will find yourself at the salon's elegant foyer.

The interiors look very indulgent, in accord with the decadent '80s "Dynasty" flair. You would feel like Joan Collins as Alexis Carrington Colby in a full-length mink coat getting off the elevator, opening to her luxurious pent-

house apartment.

The salon has a pure oxygen environment, which is even better than what passes for fresh air in some provinces, so you really don't smell a thing and you feel more relaxed within minutes of settling in.

Natural light filters through the big treated windows without the oppressive rays of the hot sun. As you look out, you will see the cars zooming past, but will not hear a decibel of traffic noise as the place is also soundproof.

The place is also a strictly no-smoking zone. But for those who must have a light, they can go to the well-lit terrace.

Now we go to the fun part: treatments and services. The moment I walked in, I was thrilled to see Eddie Magadia, the first professional hairdresser to ever touch my hair when I first started writing this column.

What I love about Eddie is that he develops a personal relationship with every client's hair. His gift is such that the moment you walk in the door he has just about sized you up and he instinctively

knows what to do with your hair. If you have any special requests—you want to look thinner, you revise the shape of your face—he can oblige. He has yet to fail me in the six times he has handled my hair.

MAKEOVER 911



Kinny Salas

rubbing the eye area when washing the face. The extension is perfect for summer because you can do away with eye makeup altogether.

Honestly, it's too hot to wear makeup and the one at the eye area just ends up smearing and creasing on greasy faces, anyway. I just put a cheek gel and sheer lipstick and I'm out the door.

Those who want less maintenance may opt for an eyelash perm instead for P850. It will also last two months and make mascara application a delight because your lashes are separated and the hassle of curling is no longer a factor.

For the eyebrow-obsessed, May of Philosophy will thread them into glamorous arches that will brighten your face and serve as an instant eye-lift. It really is the cheapest eye job available.

Philosophy also has the favorite Chinese medicine treatments, a favorite of celebrities, such as acupuncture facelift and Moxa Ventoza or cupping at the back (they're favorites of Madonna and Gwyneth Paltrow).

I am scheduled for the acupuncture facelift. I will tell you how it goes!

Only in this column will my friends now know my mascara was not the item that deserved the credit for my long, dark and perfectly curved lashes. The credit goes to the real hair that tapers off at the tips like real lashes.

People said I was blooming without makeup and that something was different about me, but they couldn't pinpoint what I had done. They really liked my eyes. For my part, it was liberating not to be a slave to mascara and an eyelash curler. (Rozelle of Philosophy did my lashes, really.)

Extensions last for two months and you are discouraged from



ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

For a true Hollywood feel, Philosophy even offers limousine service if you are within the Makati. So if your mom or wife works or lives in the area, you can have her picked up and pampered for a one-of-a-kind Mother's Day treat. Call 8921574.



HEAVEN on bare skin

Stars' secrets revealed

WHAT IS THE SECRET BEHIND Angelina Jolie's radiant skin or Jessica Alba's beautiful plump lips?

Jolie and Alba are just two celebrities who use various Lush products to help keep their film-star looks.

Alba uses Lush's Honey Trap lip balm (P425), a moisturizing and softening balm full of honey and beeswax to soften, plus antioxidant-rich cold-pressed wheat-germ oil and olive oil. To help plump up the lips, Lush uses peppermint essential oil.

Jolie gets help in keeping her skin flawless from Lush's Ultrabland face cleanser (P475). The

product has light, peanut oil-based and extremely effective formulation, lifting and dissolving dirt and excess sebum and leaving the skin plumped up and soft.

Lindsay Lohan uses Lush's Breath of Fresh Air toner (P575) to give her skin a refreshing spritz when necessary. Made with Spring water, fresh seawater and aloe gel, along with mineral-rich seaweed, the toning spritzer prevents dehydration, while moisturizing and softening the skin.

Kylie Minogue buys Buffy (P375), the Lush product for



LUSH
Dream Cream

keeping bums and thighs soft and smooth.

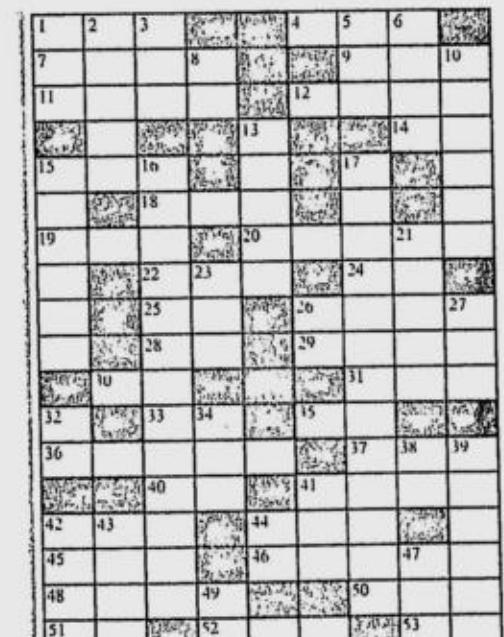
Best used in the shower, Buffy has shea butter that melts over skin. The ground aduki beans, rice and almonds will scrub and polish the skin, leaving it in prime condition. The product also contains lavender and lemon essential oils for toning.

All products are available at Lush shops nationwide.

Lush is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. Lush boutiques are in Glorietta 4, Power Plant Mall, Shangri-La Mall and Greenbelt 3. Visit www.lush.com.ph

* Happy Mother's Day!

Queen
of
Hearts



ACROSS

1. Filipino mom 50. Mauna _____

4. Abel's mom 51. The word "in" in Spanish

7. Virgin 52. Mother's month

9. _____ Marin 53. C____ news network

DOWN

1. Pampanga's mom

2. Filipino mom

3. _____ stevo

5. Abel's Mom

6. Expanded Value Added Tax

8. Alphabet ending

10. Biblical queen

13. _____ of hearts

15. G in GMA

16. John Crimfoot's bio

17. Pearl source

21. Mother _____

23. Norse myth

26. Interjections

27. Spy org

32. Interjection

34. Period

38. Musical note

39. Japanese mom

41. Meadow

42. British title

43. Norse god

44. Afternoon

47. Long period

49. Primer's measure

Complete the puzzle. Present to claim your double treat on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14, 2006!

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Lifestyle

Hip
and happening
moms

ON APPLES: Striped mustard-yellow spaghetti cocktail dress by Jessica, accessories by Red Herring at Debenhams. On Sam: Checkered pocket detailed polo and denim skirt with accessories, all by Red Herring at Debenhams

AS MOTHER'S DAY DRAWS NEAR, Stores Specialists Inc. and Rustan Marketing Specialty Inc. pay tribute to two hip, young yet extraordinary mothers: model, INQUIRER fashion columnist and interior designer Apples Aberin-Sadhwani, and magazine editor and radio host Lexi Shulze-Berenguer-Testa.

They are true examples of how the contemporary mom can balance several roles while staying absolutely chic.

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani, mother of two, is the perfect image of a cool mom. While she is generally the kind to keep a casual and friendly relationship with her children, she also knows when it's time to put her foot down, and set the limit.

"I think it's important to be a friend and still make them understand that I am still their mom whom they can talk to and turn to for advice," she says.

During a shoot with her 14-year-old daughter Sam, she shares how her flair for fashion has become good common ground for weekly bonding sessions spent at the mall.

"We find the time to go to the mall, just the two of us. We shop or simply look around."

"Sometimes, I find that several articles of clothing of mine are in her closet. Of course, she has her own fashion

FROM FAT MAN
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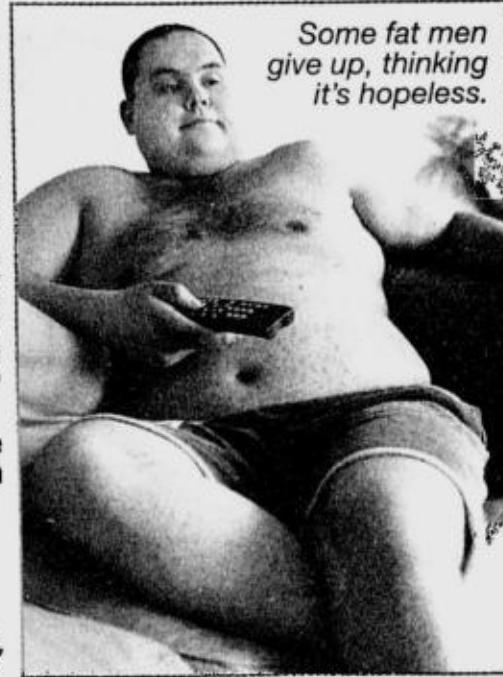
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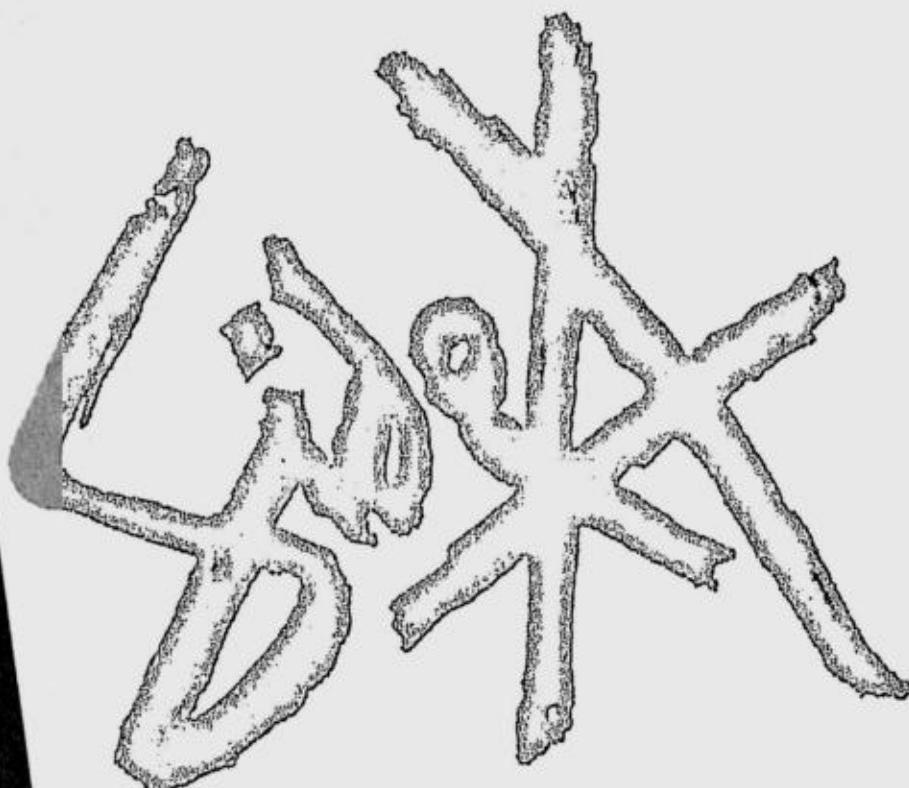
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- May 1, Arts & Crafts: Basic Painting & Caricature Making, 2/L, 4pm
- May 6, SIDE A Concert, 2/L, 8pm
- May 6, Summer Bikini Nights, Cuba Libre, 2/L, 8pm
- May 7, Stardanz 2006 Grand Finals, 2/L, 4pm
- May 11 & 18, Kiddie Star Model Search, 2/L, 4pm
- May 12, Center for Pop Music Recital, 2/L, 4pm
- May 13, Kidding Aside Fashion Show by: RDH Entertainment, 2/L, 4pm
- May 14, Mom's Day-out with Ruby Rodriguez, 2/L, 3pm
- May 19-21, "Aquario" Exhibit of different Aquarium Set-up & Fishes, 2/L, 10am-8pm
- May 20 & 27, Storytelling Activity @ Books for Less, 2/L, 4pm
- May 21, Dream Concert by: Center for Pop Music, 2/L, 4pm
- May 27, Finds Superstore Grand Launching with Christian Bautista and Jennylyn Mercado, G/L, 4pm
- May 28, Kiddie Star Model Search Grand Finals & Flores de Mayo, 2/L, 2pm
- May 28-31, "Maskterpiece" Exhibit, G/L, 10am-8pm
- Tuesdays, Stand-up Comedy @ Cuba Libre, 2/L, 8pm
- Fridays, Live Bands @ Cuba Libre, 2/L, 8pm

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ALABANG

Tel. 850-3845

- May 1, Arts & Crafts Livelihood "No Bake Cake", 3/L, 1pm
- May 5, 12, 19 & 26, Indak sa Kolikasan '06 Dance Contest Eliminations, 2/L, 4pm
- May 7, Jed Modelo mall tour, 2/L, 6pm
- May 13-14, Mary Kay Make-up Demo, 3/L, 4pm
- May 13-14, Nutrition Counseling for Mom & Kids, 3/L, 10am
- May 13, SMB Summer Babaran: Wet n' Wild Party, Open Parking, 7pm
- May 14, Strings Saronade @ Kins Long & Max's, 5pm
- May 20, Family Fun Game Show with Ruby Rodriguez, 3/L, 4pm
- May 20, Martial Arts Demo featuring Wushu, 3/L, 2pm
- May 27, SIDE A Concert, 4/L, 8pm
- May 28, Starland Mallwide Santacruz & Little Miss Starland '06, 3pm
- Mondays & Tuesdays, Live Bands @ Mark's Bar, 2/L, 6pm
- Wednesdays, Nightlife Acoustics, 2/L, 6pm
- Thursdays, Stand-up Comedy @ Mark's Bar, 2/L, 8pm

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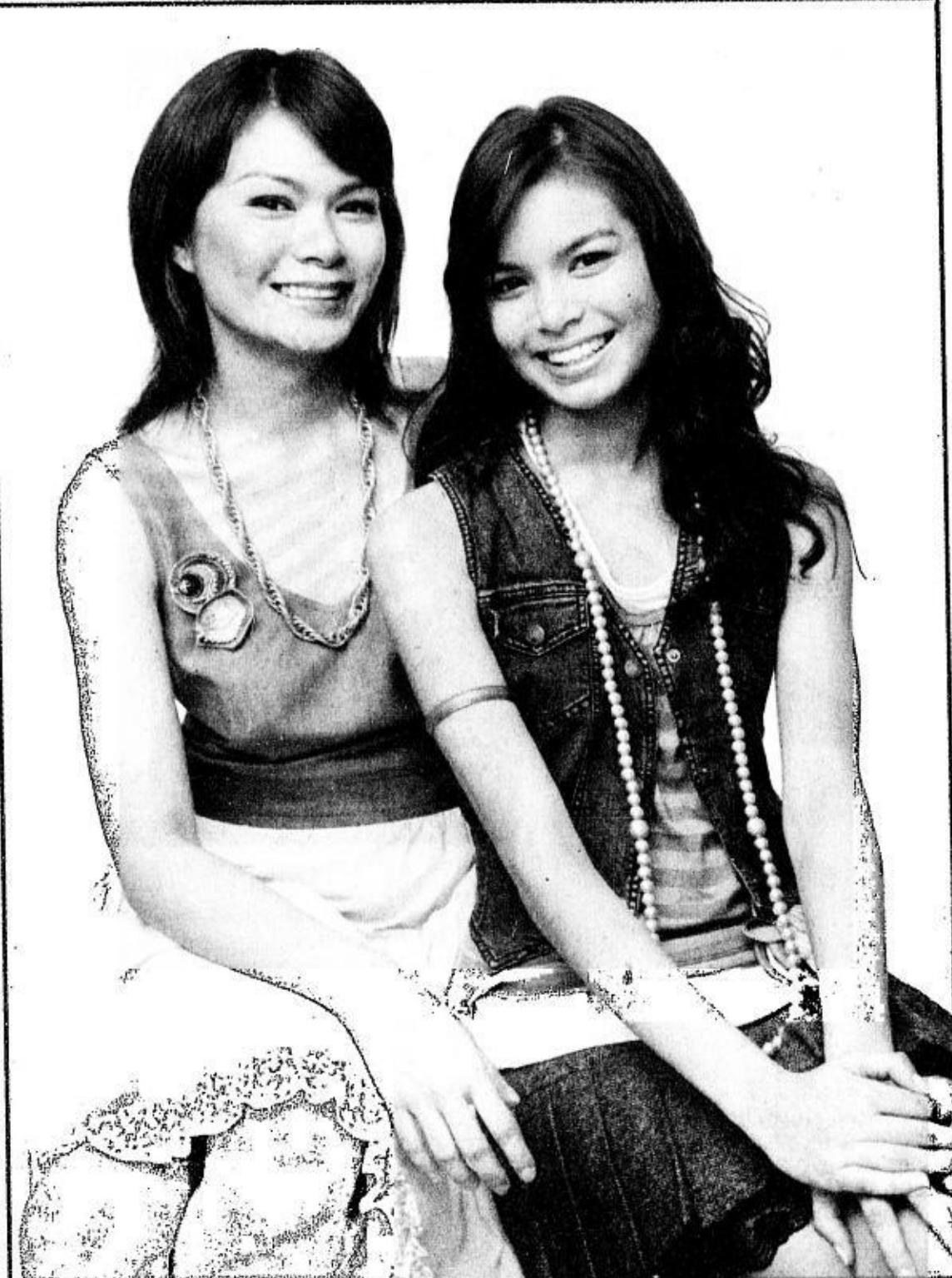
- May 4, Destiny Cable Raffle Draw, 2/L, 2pm
- May 6, 13, 20 & 26, Summer Fun Time @ Books for Less, 3pm
- May 6, 13, 20 & 27, Value Point Modeling Search, 3pm
- May 6 & 20, Clash Dance: Belly Dancing vs. Street Dancing, My Spa Fitness, 1pm
- May 13, SIDE A Concert, 2/L, 8pm
- May 13 & 27, Aero-Marathon for Moms, My Spa Fitness, 1pm
- May 14, Mom's Saronade @ Figaro, Doncios & Gloria Maris, 6pm
- May 18, Zarzuela de Bacolod, 2/L, 7pm
- May 19, Bamboo the City Tour, 2/L, 7pm
- May 27, SMB Summer Babaran, Open Parking, 7pm
- May 27, Monterey MVP on Wheels Cooking Demo, Open Parking, 1pm
- Tuesdays, Ballroom Nights @ Mark's Bar, 7pm
- Wednesdays, Live Music @ The Strip, 7pm
- Fridays, Acoustic Nights @ Mark's Bar, 7pm
- Saturdays, Live Music @ The Strip featuring Divasi, 7pm



MINT-GREEN trench coat with belt by Jessica

ON APPLES: Brown cocktail dress with patch details by Jessica, bracelets by Red Herring at Debenhams. **On Sam:** Denim vest over striped racerback top, skirt, necklace and bangle, all by Red Herring at Debenhams

Two women exemplify how the contemporary mom can balance several roles while staying absolutely chic



Hip and happening moms

From page H1

statement but I know that to some degree she takes after my style. I also know that she's waiting to fit into my shoes!"

Lexi Schulze-Berenguer-Testa, on the other hand, while quite new to the world of parenting, is all smiles as she talks about her 8-month-old bundle of joy, Alba.

One of the most beautiful faces to grace the pages of magazines and commercials, Lexi has always been the type to go around town in bohemian and funky clothes that are reflective of her dynamic personality and passion for her arts. And this is how she remains.

"Style, more than a piece of clothing, is an attitude. I am very comfortable in my skin. I don't feel the need to impress or conform," she says.

With little Alba now in her arms, Lexi says, "Being a parent brings an internal shift which I don't tend to express through the way I dress. I am a believer that we women wear so many hats—career woman, homemaker, wife, mother. There are so many dimensions to a woman that you cannot restrict her to one title. So you have the same old me, in the same funky clothes."

All clothes and accessories by Laundry by Shelli Segal, Jessica, Episode, DKNY and Calvin Klein are exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. Debenhams and Marks & Spencer are exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Specialty Inc.



SHEER yellow top by CK, blue capri trousers by Jessica, maroon stilettos by DKNY and accessories by Debenhams



CREAM eyelet dress by Jessica and beaded necklace by DKNY

Two-of-a-kind moms



ACTRESS Maritoni Fernandez and son Liam: "As a mother, I never take for granted important moments. I relish their firsts and I don't let five minutes pass without saying 'I love you' to them."

THIS MOTHER'S DAY, METROBANK CARD Corporation salutes two moms who best exemplify unconditional love—Olympiad and television personality Christine Jacob-Sandejas and actress and entrepreneur Maritoni Fernandez.

A full-time career as a popular TV host was something Christine Jacob-Sandejas decided to give up without hesitation when she got married and had children.

Now blessed with three kids—Paolo Antonio, 5; Gabby, 4; Nina, 2; plus another boy on the way—Christine is a full-time mom who couldn't ask for more.

"My son is very *malambing*," she describes her firstborn. "My youngest Nina is so independent that she doesn't want anybody to help her in anything. And my little girl Gabby knows what she wants. She can really put her foot down and she'll do it. And they're all very friendly. I'm lucky in that aspect."

Christine's kids also excel in extracurricular activities. Paolo plays tennis, baseball, golf, and even joins swimming competitions, while Gabby also enjoys tennis and ballet. And Nina, at age 2, is already water-safe!

Affirmations of a job well-done come with simple gestures. For instance, Gabby likes making cards for her mom. One time, too, Paolo said something to his mom that was probably the sweetest thing Christine had ever heard. "Mom, you really love your kids, don't you?" her firstborn asked. Christine

couldn't help but melt.

With moments like these, Christine doesn't regret her decision to choose family life over career.

Actress Maritoni Fernandez may appear to be a tough character especially with the villain roles she essays on film and television.

But outside show biz, Maritoni is nothing like the characters she plays. She is warm, real and caring, and makes killer broccoli soup and mouthwatering cheesecake.

Her battle with cancer is no secret to the public, so Maritoni is thankful every day for her second chance at life. Five years after beating the disease, Maritoni is now blessed with kids Alexi, 12, and Liam, 1.

"I live each day with a lot of enthusiasm, love and passion," she states. "As a mother, I never take for granted important moments. I relish their firsts and I don't even pass five minutes without saying 'I love you' to them. We go shopping together. We eat out. We play board and computer games together. Time and bonding are very important."

"God has blessed me back a millionfold with how extremely lucky I am with Alexi and Liam. They're the ones that make life truly worth living."

For bonding moments, enjoy shopping, dining and traveling with Metrobank Visa. With its worldwide acceptance benefit, it is the perfect companion that makes family moments even more magical.

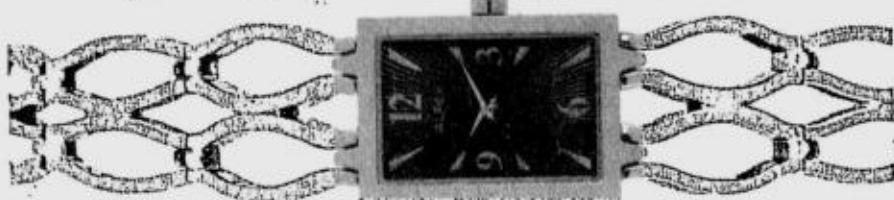


The Metrobank Visa features flexible payment schemes, and since Metrobank has a vast branch network, bills are convenient to pay either in the nearest Metrobank brand near you or through Metrophone Banking, Metrobank direct or Bancnet ATMs. Also, enjoy the variety of rewards where every P20 charge automatically a reward point. The more you use your card, the more rewards in store for you!

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CHRISTINE Jacob-Sandejas with son Paolo: "Paolo plays tennis, baseball, golf, and even joins swimming competitions."

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2006



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Alfex watches are top choices for fashionable moms because they exude feminine sophistication, like one in polished, stainless-steel casing and scratch-proof sapphire crystal face. They are products that can be mistaken for accessories but are, in fact, functional watches, perfect for use as trendy accessories and time-keeping devices. To complete the package, Alfex watches are very high-quality timepieces, so you are assured it will be with your mom for a long while.

Drop by any Time Depot stores in Rockwell, Makati; Robinsons Place Manila; Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; Festival Supermall, Alabang, Muntinlupa; Eastwood Citywalk 2, Libis, Quezon City; and SM branches in North Edsa Annex, Fairview and Pampanga.

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This month on JUST SHOP...
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...and style tykes play dress up
in Just Shop for kids.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JESSE LIMA

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Marketing conference May 18-19

THE NATIONAL MARKETING CONFERENCE (NMC) organized by the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) will be held May 18-19 at Hotel Philippine Plaza. Theme of this year's conference is All That Jazz: World-Class Innovations. A panel discussion, "Creativity across Borders," features three non-marketing creative experts: Ed Calma of Lor Calma Design, Arnel Manuel of Lolo Dad's and Rajo Laurel of House of Laurel. It will be hosted by JJ Roces, professor at the Asian Institute of Management. Audie Gemora, president of Trumpets, will talk about "How to Sell Your Ideas." Regular conference fee is P8,500. Call 6344890, 6345722 or 6361451, e-mail philmarketing@pldtdsl.net or visit www.philmarketing.com.ph.

CONCERTS. The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra (SMPO) and the San Miguel Master Chorale (SMMC) will hold concerts at the Grand Atrium of the Shangri-La Plaza, to be hosted by award-winning composer Maestro Ryan Cayabyab. The concerts are set on May 13 and 14, 7 p.m. The SMPO and conductor Arnel Feliciano are featured in "Fiesta de Mayo," an all-Filipino program on May 13. The SMMC will join the dynamic harmonies of The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra on May 14, under the baton of Eudenice Palaruan. The concerts are open to the public. Limited seats are available. Call 6337851 to 70.

GUITAR LESSONS. An easy guitar course will be conducted by pop-jazz musician Jaco Razon. The learning sessions will be held Tuesday and Friday, May 16-June 3, at Cambridge Child Development Center, 1 Capitol Hills Drive. Call 4754024.

MALL CELEBRATION. Sta. Lucia East celebrates its 15th anniversary. To highlight the celebration, there's the Little Mr. & Ms Sta. Lucia 2006 on May 13; summer fashion show on May 17, featuring Generation East 2006 finalists; May 24, a one-of-a-kind parade of gay beauties join the Gay Santacruzan and a special show at the Entertainment Center; May 25, Drum and Lyre Competition; May 26, Flores de Mayo featuring the finalists of this year's Generation East Search. Capping the activity is a grand anniversary concert featuring the country's top teen stars. On May 28, every P500 shopping receipt entitles customers to the "Name the Puzzle" promo with gift certificates and other prizes at stake.

MOTOR SHOW. The Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) celebrates its 75th anniversary. To highlight the celebration is the staging of its first-ever AAP Auto Show on May 12-14 at The Forum at the PICC.

REBATES. Citibank offers great deals on popular beachwear brands until May 31. Citibank credit cardholders can enjoy a 2-percent rebate with purchase of any regular or X items from Rustan's U's Beached, Beach Rays, Fartattu, Phax, Seafolly, U Swim, Wahine, Waicoco, Waigu, and Xoxo beachwear brands. This value offer is just one of the many perks for Citibank cardholders under Citibank World Privileges or CWP, a privilege program. Visit www.citibank.com.ph.

CONVENTION. The Parish Renewal Experience or PREX will have its 9th National PREX Convention on May 13 and 14 at Colegio San Agustin Gymnasium-Theater, Binan, Laguna. All PREX graduates are encouraged to participate. Call 9399542 or 9318111.

FOOD SEMINAR. MB&G/Proactive is now accepting reservations for the Managing a Restaurant/Canteen Seminar-Workshop and Catering Management Seminar-Workshop. Sessions start May 15, at the Ortigas Complex, Pasig City. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 8213583 or 0915-4315375.

FITNESS SESSIONS. Gympius Fitness Center, with the Star Group of Malls, is offering summer courses in Ballet, Aikido, Arjumano, Karate, Muay Thai, Wushu and Taekwondo. Gympius is open 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Visit Gympius at 3/L of Metropolis Star Alabang (7721456) or at 3/L of Starmall Edsa-Shaw (7184059).

PAINTING WORKSHOP. Cecilia S. Angeles, painter, photographer and art professor, will conduct a four-day painting workshop, 9-12 a.m. and 1-5 p.m. every Monday and Tuesday. It is organized by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation (FPPF). Sessions will be held at Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. FPPF is on 7/F Comfoods Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. Call 8137420, 8435241 and 8447769.

CONFERENCE. The Philippine Public Librarians League Inc. (PPLL) will hold a national conference on "Librarians Competence for Success," May 23-25, at the Venus Park Hotel, Baguio City. Call 5280630 or 6466423.

EXHIBIT. Starmall Edsa presents Arts and Crafts exhibit at the 2/L, featuring unique items from various home decor and furnishing exporters. Call 7181886.

SANTACRUZAN FESTIVAL. Dumaguete City celebrates its Mayflower festival on May 27. There will be a parade on the main streets and the showdown at the City Hall Quadrangle.

BOOK FAIR. The 10th Philippine Academic Book fair will be held July 10-14, 9a.m.-7p.m. at the PTA Tent, Clamshell 2, Intramuros, Manila. Call 9254572 or 09277968142.

SEMINAR-WORKSHOP. The Center for Learning and Teaching Styles Philippines will hold a seminar-workshop on "Creativity in Teaching," May 31-June 2 at the Teachers Camp, Baguio City. Call 4428877 to 78 or 4469866.

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